

Re: Initial Post

by [Jane Aldridge](#) - Monday, 28 August 2023, 3:14 PM

Hi Astrid,

I also chose the Corazon medical case study, and although Corazon in the majority of cases did adhere to the BCS code of conduct, there were two potential ethical issues which were not dealt with sufficiently. The first was the fact that Corazon devices were being offered to a vulnerable sector of society, so people below the poverty line. It is important when dealing with vulnerable individuals that there is informed consent, data protection, data confidentiality and the principle of free and informed consent (Vanclay et al, 2012). Extra controls to protect vulnerable users of the devices was not mentioned in the case study. For this reason I don't think Corazon is meeting fully the BCS code of conduct for 1b.

Secondly when the researcher raised concerns about a vulnerability in the device, there was no mention of proper governance, the case study states that 'in consultation with Corazon's technical leaders, the researcher concludes'. There is no mention of a transparent risk assessment being carried out, or independent review of this vulnerability. And so I don't think that Corazon fully meets the requirements of BCS 2e, although they did respect the researchers viewpoint, it was dealt with in a very non structured way and informal way.

Having a ethical governance structure in place would reduce the risk of the above becoming issues (Vanclay et al, 2019). An ethical governance process would ensure independent review of any potential ethical issues, and reduce risk.

References

Vanclay, F., Baines, J., Taylor C. (2013) Principles for ethical research involving humans: ethical professional practice in impact assessment Part I. Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal 31(4): 243-253.

Re: Initial post

by [Jane Aldridge](#) - Monday, 28 August 2023, 4:16 PM

Hi Etkin,

Both yourself and Astrid raise very important points about behavior in the workplace being based on deeply rooted cultural issues within the organisation. From this module I have learnt how important ethics are and that an organisations ethics should also be evident in its' training, process's and procedures. So there should be an ethics governance structure in place, which would deal with this type of behaviour (Vanclay et al, 2012).

A code of business conduct and ethics should be available for all organisations, as an example I read the Liberty Mutual business conduct and ethics code (Liberty Mutual, 2023). The code of ethics should then drive employee training, and also

provide an anonymous way to report any unacceptable behaviour. There should also exist an employee relations group, which are an internal independent group, who will investigate any ethical issues. So in this scenario, this could have been reported to employee relations who would have investigated the incident and who also have the power to issue warnings, reduce bonus's or even terminate employment.

References

Liberty Mutual Group. Code of Business Ethics and Conduct. Available from: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>
[Accessed 28th August 2023]

Vanclay, F., Baines, J., Taylor C. (2013) Principles for ethical research involving humans: ethical professional practice in impact assessment Part I. Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal 31(4): 243-253.