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Critical Thinking

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Final Essay, Inmates No drug Testing

It is not ethical for inmates to be allowed to volunteer for dangerous pharmaceutical drug testing in exchange for less prison time as it is a violation of human rights. This is a huge issue as there are around one million people incarcerated in the United States and right now it is very hard and expensive for researchers to get enough human volunteers to conduct experiments. This solves two problems reducing the prison population and also helps the scientific community. Despite both of these benefits that would help society it is very unethical to allow for inmates to volunteer to get less prison time. The benefit that will bring to society does not neglect the violation of human rights that comes with it.

One of the reasons that inmates should not volunteer is that the prisoners are in a state of distress and thus it is a violation of human rights. Prisoners are not in a state of mind, good enough to give consent to something very dangerous like this. Prisoners often spend long times alone in jail cells, often being put in dangerous situations and would put themselves in a dangerous situation to get out early. It is simply not ethical to exploit people who don't really care about their futures as most inmates are in dire situations and would be forced to do it. Since inmates are already in a dire state and not ethically sound they would most likely lie on their application to volunteer as they have plenty of incentive to do so. In addition pharmaceutical tests for inmates won't be able to give as much ethical oversight and protections for the individual normally. The prison system is not very good at keeping track of what situation a

certain prisoner is in and provide them with medical care when they need it. A prisoner who wants to volunteer, would most likely be very desperate to get out and in a mind of distress which does not know what the consequences are. In addition the facilities that offer this type of service would most likely miss crucial medical information and have an easier time mistreating the inmates.

Another human rights violation is that volunteering for drug testing does not reward good behavior nor a healthy return to society. To a prisoner volunteering for drug testing is an easy way to reduce their sentence without having to change their ways that got themselves in that prison. Normally a way prisoners can get out of prison earlier is through having good behavior or participating in lots of community service, both of these are good indications that the prisoner has learned their lesson and is ready to return to society without breaking any laws. Volunteering for drug testing will also allow for more dangerous people to be able to leave prison. Thus more criminals would be out on the streets and crime would go up. The deterrent for committing crimes as the ability to volunteer for drug testing would give people an easy way of having less punishment. The purpose of prison is for prisoners to be able to return to society, and volunteering for drug testing removes that ability for prisons as the drug testing will leave the person with permanent mental and physical damage. Which will make it a lot more difficult for that person to get employed and return to normal. Instead the prisoners should meditate on fixing their negative mindset that got them there and focus on activities that will improve their character or skillset.

Another unethical issue with having pharmaceutical drug testing for inmates is that it gives too much power over to prisons and medical companies. To start off, prisons already have a huge amount of power over inmates. Such as making the inmates work six to eight hours a day,

for a couple pennies per hour with the addition to the horrible housing and food distributions the inmates get. They are essentially being treated like slaves, and the money earned from them goes directly to the owners. Allowing pharmaceutical drug testing for inmates would be just another way the owners of the prison to make money off the lowest part of society. The prison owners won't implement it for the betterment of society but instead of for the profit that they will receive. It is essentially dehumanizing the low class people as they are just seen as a way to get more money. As for the pharmaceutical companies, they would have to pay serious money in order to get people to want to volunteer for their dangerous experiments. This is a great system as the people who are volunteering actually have a choice and also give the pharmaceutical companies a restriction of their freedoms of accusing people for testing. This restriction of their freedoms is actually a good thing as they have to be more wise with their options and will test on fewer people in order to get an optimal outcome as opposed to testing on cheap prisoners. Pharmaceutical companies will need less volunteers as they are more valued and scared and allowing inmates to volunteer would increase the amount of people needed to volunteer.

In the end, inmates should not be allowed to volunteer for dangerous pharmaceutical drug testing in exchange for less prison time as it is a violation of human rights. The first reason for this is because prisoners do not have a state of mind to give consent and pharmaceutical companies will mistreat the inmates with less care. Secondly, volunteering for drug testing does not reward good behavior to return to society and the punishment for crime will go up and more dangerous people will be out in the streets causing harm. Lastly prisons and medical facilities will have too much power over inmates and use them in order to make profit and less people will need to volunteer to clinics as the pharmaceutical companies will be wiser as their resources will be more scarce.

