Ethicists Question Exeter Hospital Hep C Clinical Trial Pitch

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Ethics specialists say a well-known hepatitis C researcher was too enthusiastic when he spoke about a still-experimental treatment regimen at an Exeter, New Hampshire, community forum, according to the Boston Globe. Discussing plans to conduct a clinical trial for former Exeter Hospital patients infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), allegedly by a technician now under federal indictment, Raymond Chung, MD, of Massachusetts General Hospital, said that the sofosbuvir-inclusive regimen being considered has already proven safe, effective and curative. Ethicists who reviewed Chung's comments, however, said they appeared to violate standards requiring that researchers convey a balanced message about clinical trial to study subjects. "That was definitely overselling," one expert told the Boston Globe. "There needed to be, 'We hope there will be fewer side effects. We hope it will be more effective, but we don't know that.'"

To read the Boston Globe article, click here.

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