



ETHICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES RAISED BY THE ARTIFICIAL PANCREAS

In this literature review, we focus on the artificial pancreas, a wearable medical technology that is being developed for type 1 diabetes management. Like other medical interventions, its use may present social and ethical challenges that could impact its uptake among people with type 1 diabetes.

Reference: A. Quintal, V. Messier, R. Rabasa-Lhoret, E. Racine, A critical review and analysis of ethical issues associated with the artificial pancreas, *Diabetes & Metabolism*, 2018.

WHO SHOULD READ THIS?

This article mainly targets healthcare professionals, artificial pancreas developers, or people working for governmental health agencies. People with type 1 diabetes and their family members may also find our results interesting.



WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The article covers ethical and social issues that could arise in the development of the artificial pancreas and in incorporating it into clinical practice. It also covers issues regarding the selection of potential artificial pancreas candidates and in developing cost-effective coverage policies.



WHAT DID WE DO?

We read scholarly publications to summarize the issues raised by this technology, and we analyzed them through an ethical and social lens. For example, public coverage of the technology will benefit people with type 1 diabetes, but may reduce resources available for people with other health conditions.



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- CONFIDENTIALITY AND SAFETY
- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COVERAGE OF THE TECHNOLOGY
- PATIENT SELECTION
- PATIENT COACHING AND SUPPORT
- PERSONAL IDENTITY OF THE USER
- CONTROL OF DIABETES

WHAT DID WE FIND?

We came up with six categories of ethical issues (left). We then formulated recommendations aimed at healthcare professionals, artificial pancreas developers, or people working for governmental health agencies to improve user experience with the technology and its clinical benefits.

WHAT NOW?

We are now conducting interviews with people with type 1 diabetes to understand their perspectives about the artificial pancreas. Gaining an understanding of future users' appreciation of the technology will help identify the ethical issues most susceptible to influence their desire to use this technology.

