

## **ETHICAL ISSUES ON VACCINES OR MEDICINES OBTAINED FROM ABORTED FOETUSES OR EMBRYONIC CELLS**

### **Report of the Bioethics Consultative Committee**

After having studied the issue on the ethical use of viral vaccines which are manufactured with components originating from aborted human fetuses or embryonic stem cells, the Bioethics Consultative Committee has drawn the following conclusions:

It is an ethical accepted praxis for physicians and patients to go ahead and use the vaccines available on the market against certain diseases, even if the vaccines were produced from aborted foetuses or embryonic cells. This is because the ethical responsibility for cooperating in the use of these vaccines is too far removed and distant (mediate or remote) from that of the original agents who sought to produce them.

Secondly, the formal intentions of the health care professional and patients in using these vaccines are to preserve human life and not to destroy them as was the original intention and action of the initial producers in destroying the embryos and foetuses in the first instance. The responsibility for doctors and patients is therefore considered to be only indirect.

The conditions for this use remains qualified depending on two factors;

1. Health care professionals and patients have to have recourse to alternative vaccines, if they exist, in order to avoid accepting social consensus to a pharmaceutical industry intent on producing vaccines in an unethical way.
2. Health care professionals and patients have to put pressure on health authorities to obtain other vaccines to substitute those unethically.

(Detailed report available on request)

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