



***An Ethics Approach to Canadians'  
Decision-Making in Medical Tourism***



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# Inquiry Question

- how do Canadians decide on medical tourism for surgical procedures and to what extent do their decisions reflect particular ethical considerations?

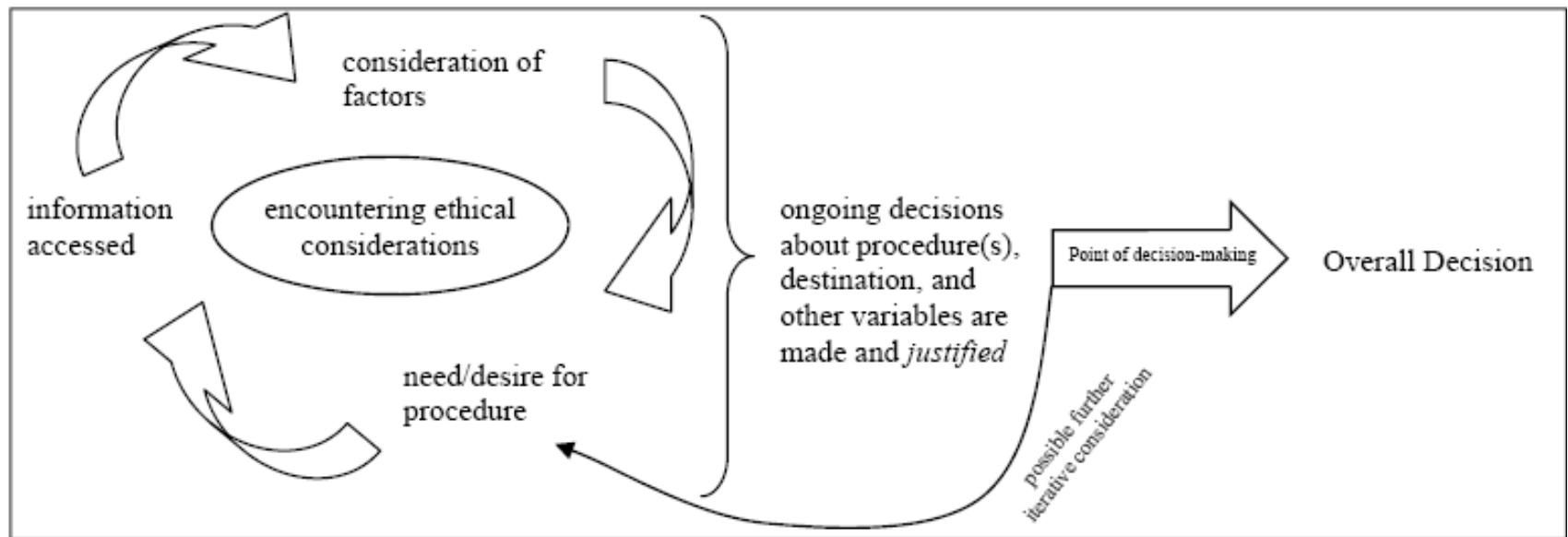
# Parameters

- No purchased organs
- Surgical intervention

# Objectives

- create a framework that identifies factors that inform decision-making regarding medical tourism for surgery and potential ethical considerations encountered and justified, including a process of consultation with experts from the ethics, health services, and tourism fields in order to refine the framework
- undertake a limited number of interviews with workers at medical tourism booking companies in Canada, and also Canadians who have engaged in medical tourism abroad, in order to test and further refine the framework and enhance our knowledge about the Canadian context of medical tourism.

# Conceptual framework



# Ethical Considerations

<i>Factor</i>	<i>Potential Ethical Consideration</i>
Out-of pocket payment	Out-of-pocket payments for covered services go against the very principles of the Canada Health Act by creating, in effect, a two-tier system. The Canadian health care system is often referred to as a defining national feature. Given this, is it right for me to engage in medical tourism by paying for my elective surgery?
Cost	Allocating money to medical tourism may drain resources from other activities and/or other members in a family unit. Given this, is it right for me to divert money towards paying for my elective surgery abroad?
Local impact	The impact of medical tourism practices on local communities has been questioned. Given this, is it wrong for me to ignore the resources I may drain from the local peoples?
Responsible tourism	Ethical tourists should aim to minimize the impact they have on the global and local environment. Given this, is it my duty to be an environmentally responsible tourist?

# Study Design

- *Step 1 – Scoping Review*
- *Step 2 – Interviews with Medical Tourism Agents and Agencies*
- *Step 3 – Initial Development of a Decision-Making Framework*
- *Step 4 – Refinement of Framework through Consultation with Experts*
- *Step 5 – Interviews with Canadians who have been Medical Tourists*
- *Step 6 – Finalize Decision-Making Framework*

# What do we know about the Canadian perspective on medical tourism?

1. Drivers of Canadian patients' involvement
2. Broader involvement in medical tourism
3. Coverage of medical tourism by Medicare
4. Factors prompting medical tourism awareness

# What do we know about the benefits and limits of medical tourism in home and destination countries?

1. Medical tourism as a solution to problems
2. Medical tourism as a revenue generating industry
3. Medical tourism as a safety issue
4. Medical tourism as a user of public resources
5. Medical tourism as a source of inequities
6. Medical tourism as a standard of care

# What do we know about medical tourism from the patient's perspective?

1. Decision-making factors taken into consideration by medical tourists
2. Patient motivations for engaging in medical tourism
3. First-hand experiences of medical tourists
4. Risks and benefits of patients' engagement in medical tourism