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Poster Title: A Fine Balance		
Poster Abstract (maximum of 250 words) In modern healthcare, multiple medicines contain traces of animal derived products. Patients are seldom informed of this, despite the knowledge that some faith-based groups and patients with other belief systems would find the administration of these products in conflict with their belief systems. Thus, the administration of such medicines could lead to a potential 'harm' being caused. So, to what extent are prescribers obliged to explore a patient's belief systems, divulge the content of all medicinal products and discuss alternatives? Respecting the principle of autonomy and providing the information to allow a patient to decide on a particular course of action would indicate that prescribers are obliged to divulge the content of all medicinal products. There may also be a legal requirement to divulge such information given the recent Montgomery ruling whereby healthcare professionals are required to divulge information that <i>the patient</i> would attach significance to. Yet this position has to be balanced against maintaining the operational efficiency and cost reduction required in a modern health care system. A recent referral to our clinical ethics committee asked for advice following a complaint from a patient who had received a medicine containing an animal derived product which conflicted with their belief system. We suggest that there are strong ethical and legal reasons why patients should be asked if they are prepared to receive medicinal products containing animal derived products and provide a suggestion as to how this may be achieved, whilst balancing the requirement for an efficient modern healthcare system.		
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