



## THE ETHICAL IMPORTANCE OF ASSENT

While caregivers provide legal consent, adolescents' assent, or willingness to participate meaningfully in care, is central to both ethical practice

It is also important to acknowledge the anxiety this approach can evoke for clinicians. Respecting reluctance may feel like inaction in risk-focused systems. However, clinicians can remain attentive to changes in mood, behavior, and functioning; revisit conversations over time; and clearly

## REFERENCES