Ethics on Demand – Illegal Injections

**Article:** [North Andover woman facing federal charges on allegations she provided illegal butt injections for years, endangering clients](https://www.boston.com/news/crime/2019/07/26/north-andover-woman-illegal-butt-injections)

**What was the situation?**

A woman is facing federal charges after she was found performing illegal buttock and facial injections for many years out of her home. Two Boston-area witnesses reported that the woman told them they were being injected with was hyaluronic acid, a legal substance often used as a lip or wrinkle filler. A lab determined the liquid seized from the accused’s home was silicone oil, which is not FDA approved for any body enhancements.

**What went wrong?**

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| Lack of safety standards and respect for patients | Practicing illegally | Lack of knowledge, could cause serious harm |

**Using the Code of Ethics**

The [CSMLS Code of Ethics](https://www.csmls.org/About-Us/Our-Members/Code-of-Ethics.aspx) serves to define and expand the inherent ethical concepts contained in the [CSMLS Code of Professional Conduct](https://www.csmls.org/About-Us/Our-Members/Code-of-Conduct.aspx), document expectations of ethical behaviour for all medical laboratory professionals and provide a framework during professional and personal self-evaluation. Consider how adhering to these codes could have prevented the situation. What other codes are applicable?

*Code of Ethics*

* 1.1 Practise only those disciplines within the medical laboratory profession for which CSMLS certification has been achieved.
* 1.2 Practise only those procedures for which qualification has been achieved or officially delegated by an appropriate institutional authority, where the member has the current requisite knowledge, skills and judgment to ensure and demonstrate competence.
* 1.3 Recognize risk prone situations in order to minimize harm to patients, staff and self.

*Code of Professional Conduct*

* Medical laboratory professionals shall practise within the scope of their professional competence.
* Medical laboratory professionals shall be aware of the laws and regulations governing medical laboratory technology and shall apply them in the practise of their profession.

**Relevant Articles**

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[Selma hospital, doctors to pay $1.5M to settle whistleblower lawsuit](https://www.wsfa.com/2019/09/19/selma-hospital-doctors-pay-m-settle-whistleblower-lawsuit/)

[Horizon Health, nurse deny wrongdoing in alleged misuse of labour-inducing drug](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/moncton-hospital-nurse-oxytocin-nicole-ruest-class-action-lawsuit-1.5161462)

[Ontario may let pharmacists prescribe treatments for minor issues like pink eye](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/pharmacists-prescribing-treatments-1.5103435)