

# AI CHATBOT PSYCHCAREBOT

AN AI ETHICS  
CASE STUDY

# CAREBOT: ROBOT INTEGRATED CARETAKING

## 2 TYPES: DO/ENABLE



MANIPULATE  
MEDICATION FLOW  
(AUTOMATED  
ANESTHETIC DELIVERY)

*versus*

REMIND  
TO TAKE A PILL  
(CAREBOT)

# EXAMPLE: PSYCHCAREBOT

The PsychCareBot offers chats, self-help, mood tracking, curated videos and mental exercises. It helps users learn why sleep, exercise, nutrition and meditation are pillars in depression recovery, and gathers mood data to offer personal responses modelled on behavioural therapy.

“I feel like I have a buddy chatting with me, forcing me to pace myself.”

“It provides anonymity without the fear of being judged by others as some feel anxious when discussing their depression with another human.”

<https://flowneuroscience.com/home/app/>



# PSYCHCAREBOT

What should treatment be optimized to produce?

Freedom/Autonomy?

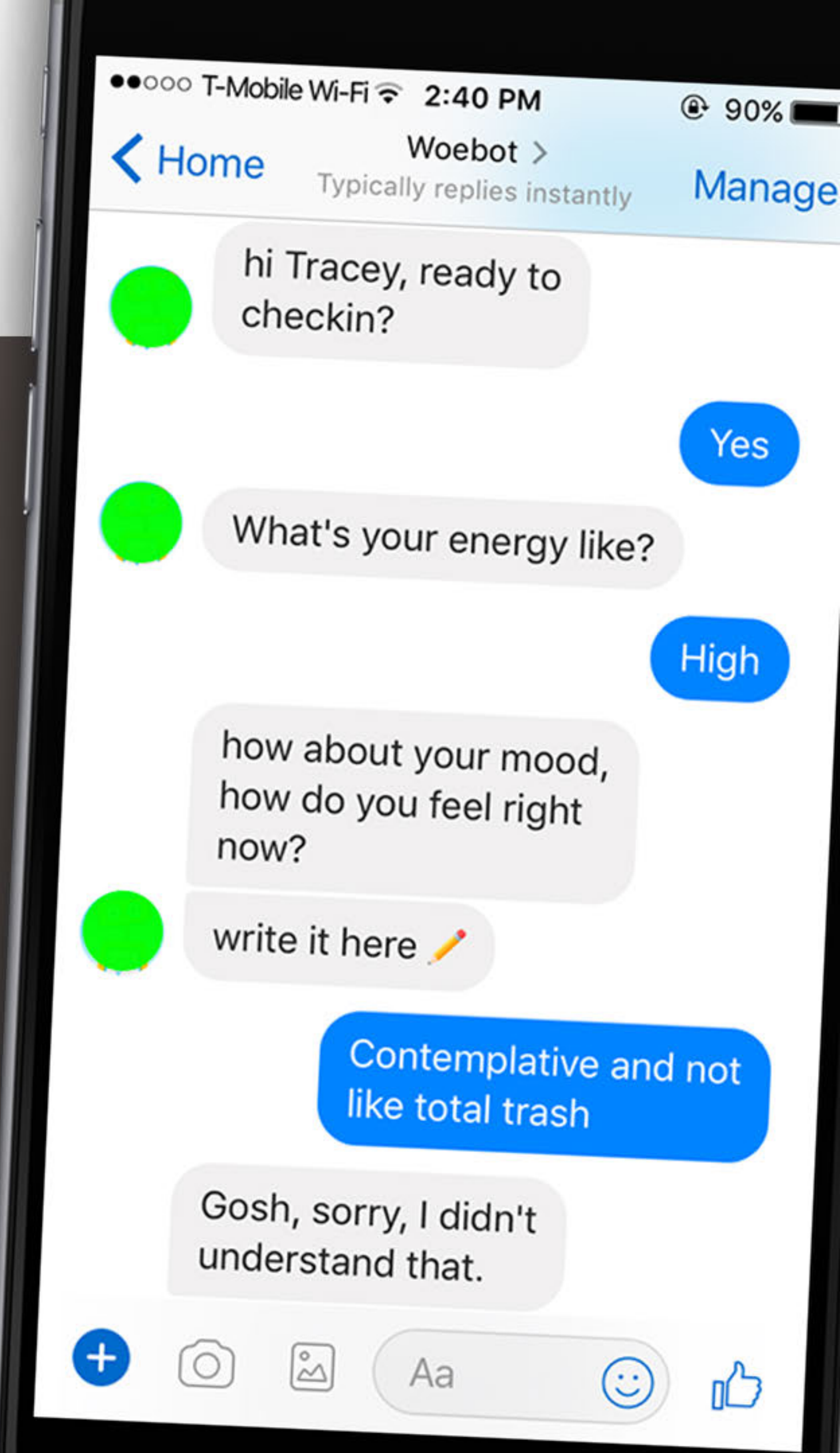
Dignity?

Happiness? Hedonistic or idealistic?

For patient and/or others and/or society?

Do answers shift with patient ages or other conditions?

Who decides?



# PSYCHCAREBOT

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Considering the patient outcome sought, are there scenarios where truth should not be considered a prime obligation? For example, if a patient is lonely, ought the PsychCareBot impersonate a real human?

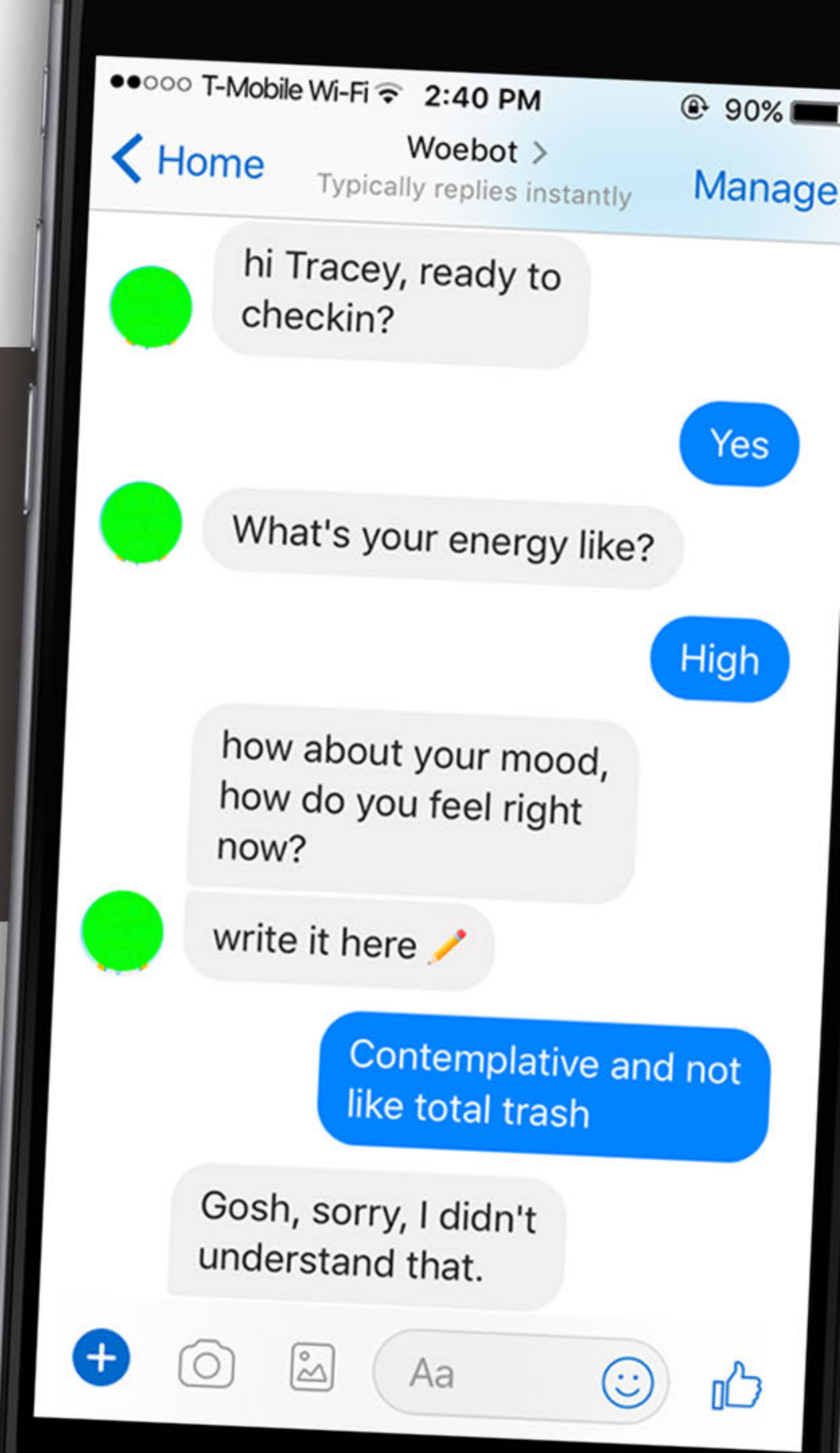
Is there a difference between a lie, a manipulation, and a treatment?



# PSYCHCAREBOT

Who is involved in decisions?

There are cases where patients are indigent, elderly and alone, and similar where the state pays for PsychCareBot treatment. Does the fact that taxpayers pay change the rule for patient manipulation?



# PSYCHCAREBOT

Should humans be secretly listening in to PsychCareBot treatments to protect the patient or others?

Should there be listening in to improve the language processing and treatment algorithms?

“It provides anonymity without the fear of being judged by others as some feel anxious when discussing their depression with another human.”



# PSYCHCAREBOT

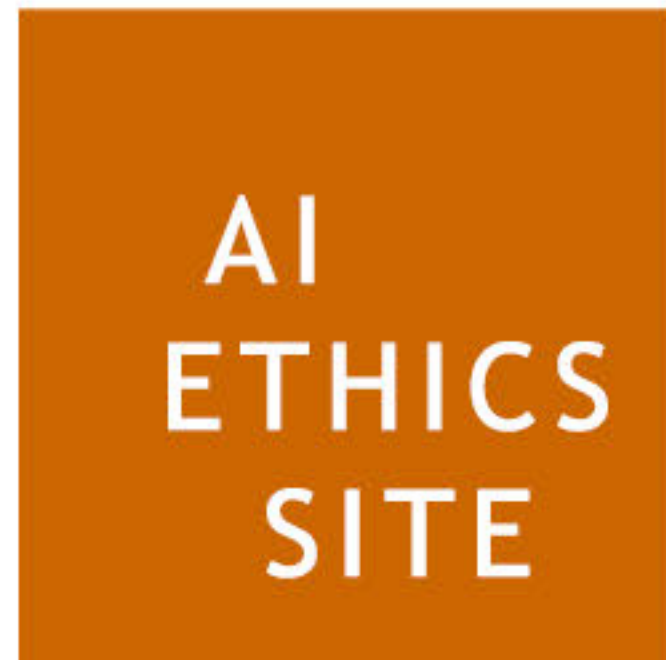
Who gets blamed if something goes wrong?







James Brusseau  
Philosophy Department  
Pace University NYC



AI Ethics Site  
Artificial Intelligence + Human Experience