From Principle to Practice: What is An Ethics Framework?

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We are privileged to provide care on lands that Indigenous peoples have called home for thousands of years.

Webinar Housekeeping

- Everyone will be muted except the host, moderator and panelists

- Ask questions through the Teams chat box

- All webinars will be recorded and posted on the internal PEaCE Hub page and on the Regional Ethics Network (REN) Website

- Please take a moment to scan the QR code to complete the evaluation

HHS Ethics Rounds & Community Education Sessions

Objective

Learn how to utilize an ethics framework in managing moral dilemmas in healthcare practice.

▶ What is an Ethics Framework?

▶ Why do we need an Ethics Framework?

▶ The Ethics Framework as a Tool for Decision Making

▶ Where can you find the Ethics Framework?

What is an Ethics Framework?

- An Ethics Framework provides guidance to promote ethical decision-making and resources to support all members of the HHS and REN community

Why do we need an Ethics Framework?

▶ The Ethics Framework has two purposes:

To provide a common approach to guide ethical decision-making;

To outline the structures and resources available to support ethical decision-making

When Should you Use the Ethics Framework?

Signs that prompt the use of the framework include:

- Are you wondering: "What is the right thing to do?"
- Are you or other people involved experiencing worry, confusion, distress or guilt about an issue?
- Are you feeling caught between two or more obligations?
- Do multiple options seem right, or seem wrong?
- Is there disagreement about a patient's care plan?
- Is there conflict on the team about what is fair or right?
- Are there power dynamics that make it hard to speak up about concerns?
- Are you concerned about possible harms to some persons?
- Is the law or hospital policy unclear about what to do in this situation?

HHS Ethics Framework as a Tool for Decision Making: ISSUES 2

Ethical Decision-Making: ISSUES
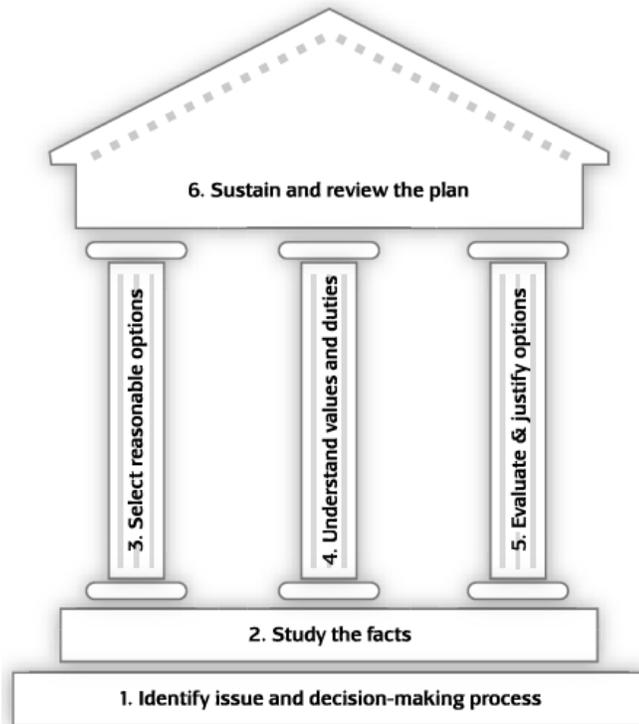
1. **I**dentify the issue and decision making process
2. **S**tudy the facts
3. **S**elect reasonable options
4. **U**nderstand values and duties
5. **E**valuate & justify options
6. **S**ustain and review the plan

# REN Ethics Framework as a Tool for Decision Making: IDEA 2
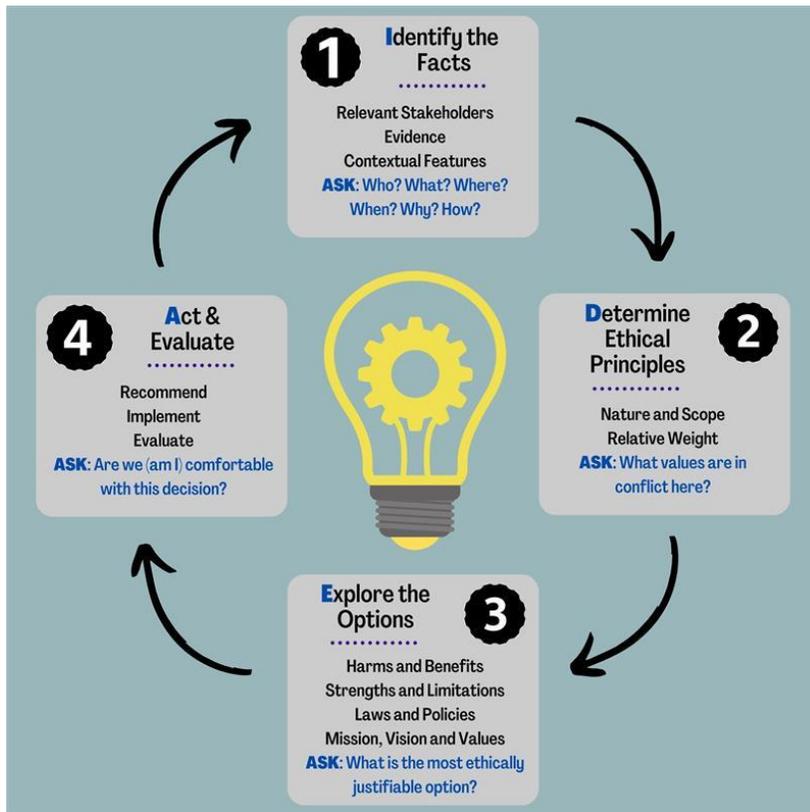
1. **I**dentify the facts
2. **D**etermine ethical principles
3. **E**xplore the Options
4. **A**ct & Evaluate

Case:

- Your patient is refusing all food. The patient's family has asked that you do everything possible to ensure their loved one is receiving adequate nutrition, including feeding the patient against their will. What should you do?

Ethical Decision-Making: ISSUES

6. Sustain and review the plan

3. Select reasonable options

4. Understand values and duties

5. Evaluate & justify options

2. Study the facts

1. Identify issue and decision-making process
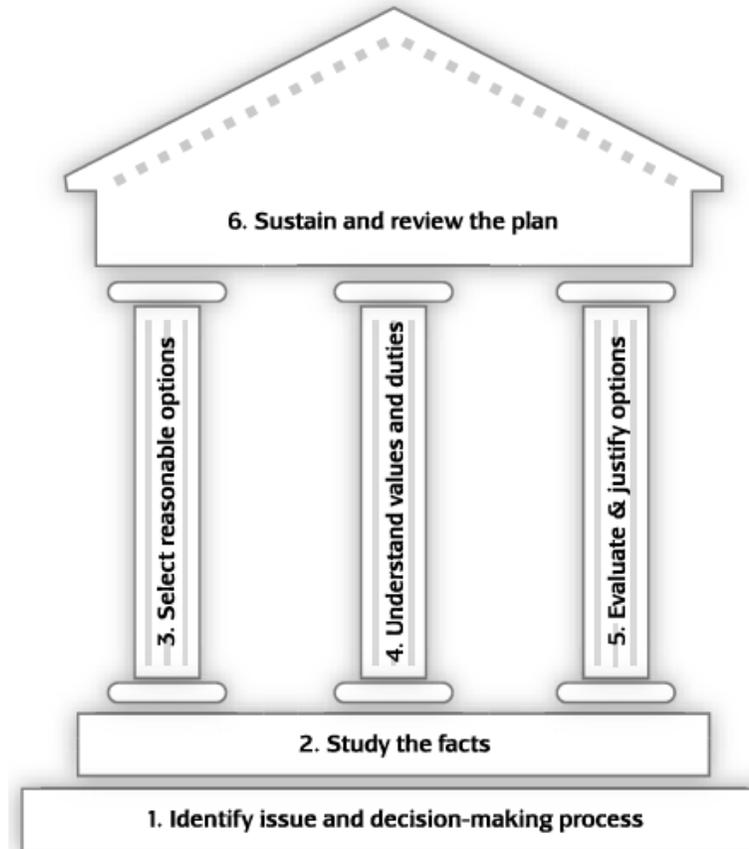
1. Identify the issue and decision making process

Reflection questions:

▶ What is your gut reaction to the situation?

▶ What is the ethical issue/dilemma/conflict as you see it?

▶ What are your personal biases (implicit or explicit) and values, and how might these impact your perspective?

▶ Who is impacted by the situation?

▶ How can all stakeholders be engaged?

2. Study the facts

Gather information from a variety of stakeholders including patients and families if possible

▶ Evidence informed practice

▶ Stakeholder perspectives

▶ Resource implications

▶ Contextual factors

3. Select reasonable options

▶ What are two or more realistic options?

Stop feeding the patient	Force feed the patient
Family meeting	Offer the patient different meal options
Discuss barriers to eating with the patient	Tube feeding

4. Understand values and duties

- What principles, values, and duties are relevant to the situation?
  - Autonomy
  - Beneficence
  - Non-maleficence
  - Justice
- What are the legal requirements, professional standards, and policies?
- Are key values, duties, principles, or standards in conflict?

5. Evaluate and justify options

- What are the possible harms/benefits of various options to different stakeholders?
  - Ex. Not feeding the patient
    - Benefit: respects patient's autonomy
    - Harm: may cause harm to the patient
- **Choose the option that best aligns with duties, principles, and values**
- State clear reason for your choice; anticipate questions and criticisms

6. Sustain and review the plan

▶ Identify how best to implement, communicate and document the decision

▶ Reflect on the decision and the process

    ▶ What lessons can be learned?

    ▶ How can these lessons be shared?

    ▶ Is there a quality improvement opportunity?

▶ Does this situation point to a systemic issue, such as a policy gap? How might it be addressed?

Where can you find the Ethics Framework?

Questions?