



You do what? Introduction to Ethics

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Office of Ethics



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 and moderator
- ▶ 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 website
- ▶ Evaluation to follow



**National
Health Ethics
Week
(NOVEMBER
2-8, 2025)**

National Health Ethics Week (NHEW) is a time to raise awareness and promote dialogue regarding ethics issues in our community.

Theme: Ethics in Times of Turbulence and Disruption

Go to the Ethics Page on the HHS HUB or Regional Ethics Network Website to see all planned events.

Objective

Learn the 5Ws and 1H of Ethics in our organization.

- What?
- Why?
- When?
- Where?
- Who?
- How?

WHAT is Ethics?

Ethics is the study of what is good and bad; right and wrong; fair and unfair. Ethics is not just about following rules. It is about stopping to reflect on options and making choices, considering the relevant duties, principles, harms and benefits. Ethical issues are part of daily life in healthcare.

Typical ethical questions include:

- ▶ **What** should we do? (Determining which actions are good or right.)
- ▶ **Why** should we do it? (Exploring the reasons for our decisions.)
- ▶ **How** do we engage in decision-making? (Ensuring a fair process.)
- ▶ **Who** should be involved? (Engaging appropriate stakeholders.)



WHAT is Ethics Consultation?

Ethics Consultation is done to provide a safe and inclusive process to enable relevant parties to:

- ▶ explore difficult ethical issues that arise in patient care
- ▶ identify and weigh reasonable options
- ▶ support ethically-appropriate actions
- ▶ improve the quality of patient care and enhance the patient experience (where possible)
- ▶ engage in fair, rigorous and transparent decision-making
- ▶ enable teams to make ethical decisions in compliance with the **ethics framework**



WHAT is not Ethics Consultation?

The ethics service will not accept requests to consult for the issues below but will direct referrals to appropriate services

- ▶ professional practice or health concerns regarding professional staff (i.e. substance abuse);
- ▶ whistle-blowing issues;
- ▶ unprofessional conduct;
- ▶ interpersonal conflicts between staff members;
- ▶ requests for legal advice or risk management



“WHY Ethics: Why do we need this service?”:



- Improving and promoting a patient centered approach to care delivery
- Guidance
- Compliance
- Diversity/ Plurality of voices
- Empowerment and Validation
- Support the organization in fulfilling its stated mission and values

WHEN do you know you are facing an ethical dilemma

- ▶ If you are you wondering: “What is the right thing to do”
- ▶ If you or other people involved experiencing worry, confusion, distress or guilt about an issue
- ▶ If you are feeling caught between two or more obligations, such as respecting choice and using resources wisely
- ▶ if multiple options seem right, or seem wrong
- ▶ If there is disagreement about a patient’s care plan
- ▶ If there is conflict on the team about what is fair or right
- ▶ If there are power dynamics that make it hard to speak up about concerns
- ▶ If you are concerned about possible harms to some persons
- ▶ If the law or hospital policy is unclear about what to do in a certain situation



Examples of WHEN to seek an ethics consultation

Common situations where Ethics Consultation may be helpful, include:

Clinical:

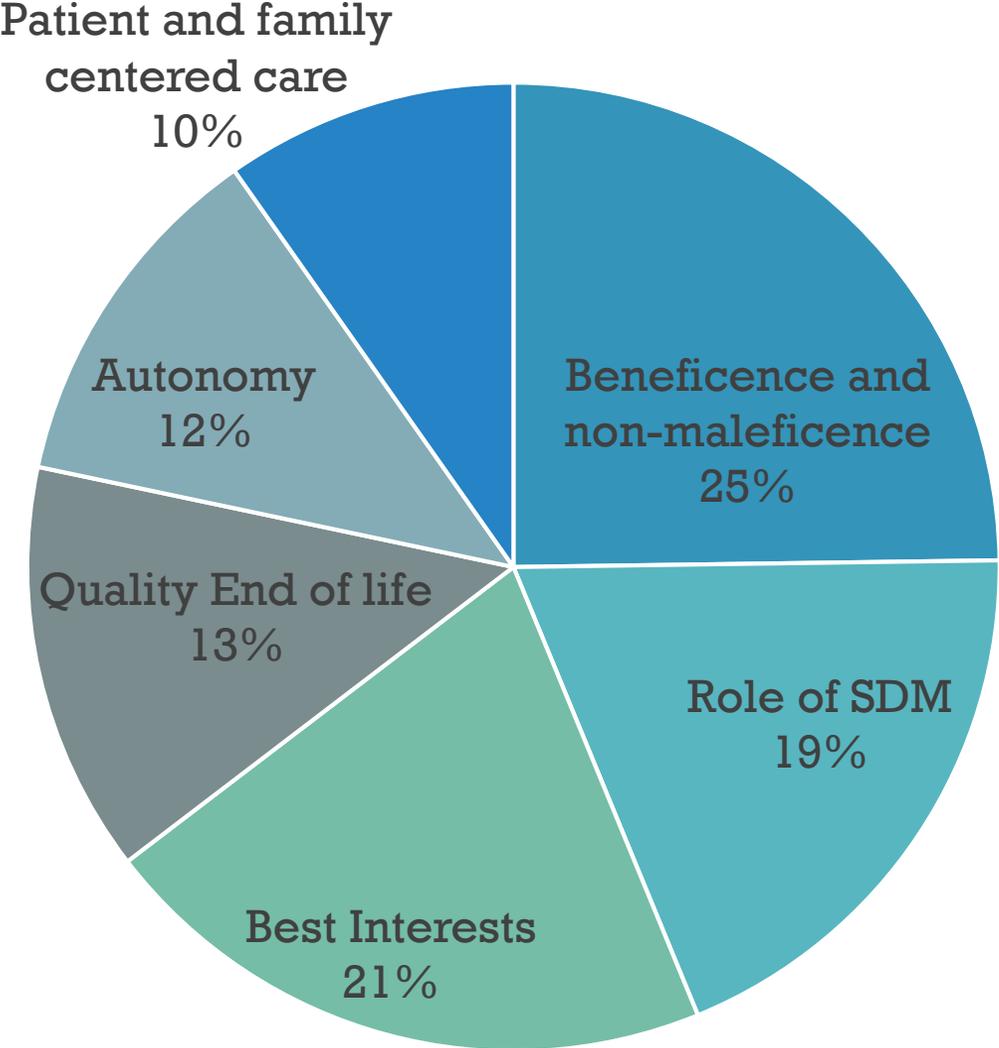
- ▶ When there is conflict within a family regarding the best interests/wishes of a patient.
- ▶ When the team has disagreements regarding the goals of care for a patient.
- ▶ When there is uncertainty about how to make decisions for a patient who lacks capacity to make his/her own decisions.

Organizational:

- ▶ When staff are experiencing moral distress about a patient case or certain cases
- ▶ Issues affecting patients and hospital policies or healthcare legislation is not particularly helpful in addressing them

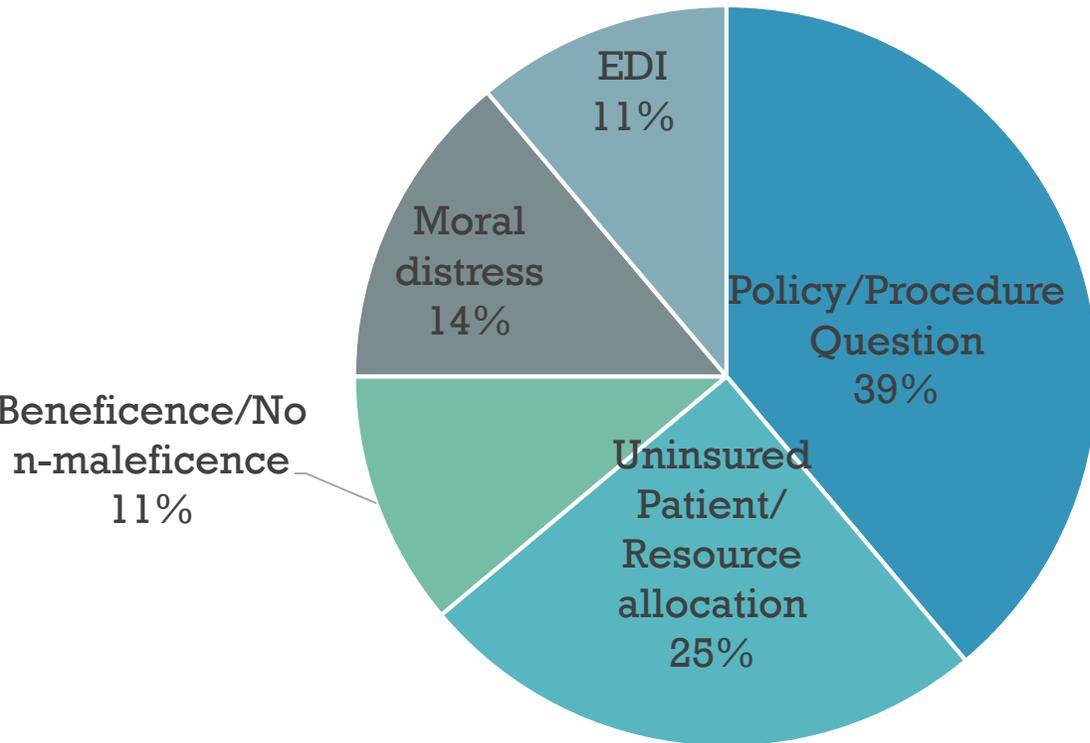


CLINICAL ETHICAL ISSUES

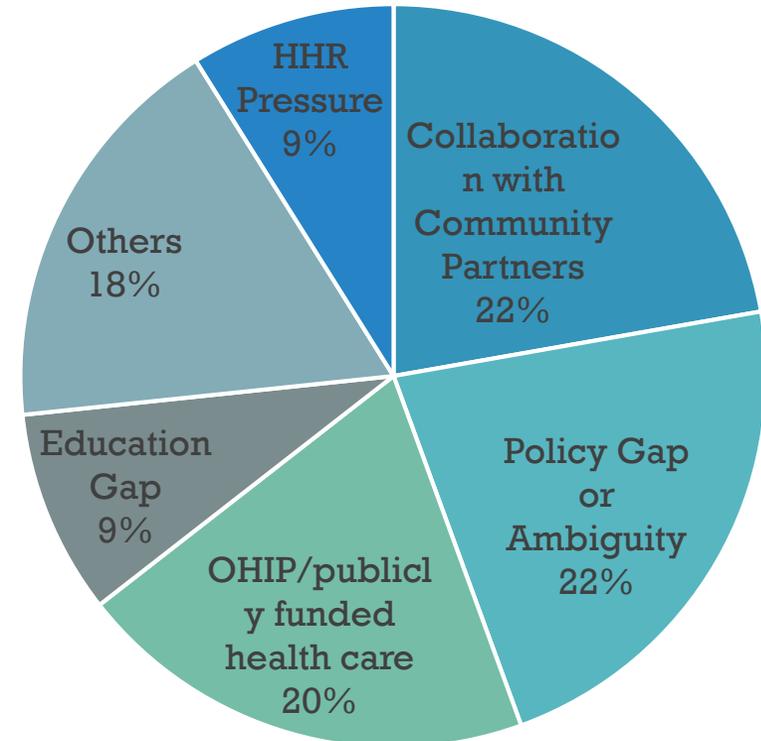


Top 5 Organizational Ethical Issues and Contributors

Organizational Ethical Issues



Systemic Contributors to Organizational Ethics Issues





WHERE ??
Everywhere, All at Once.

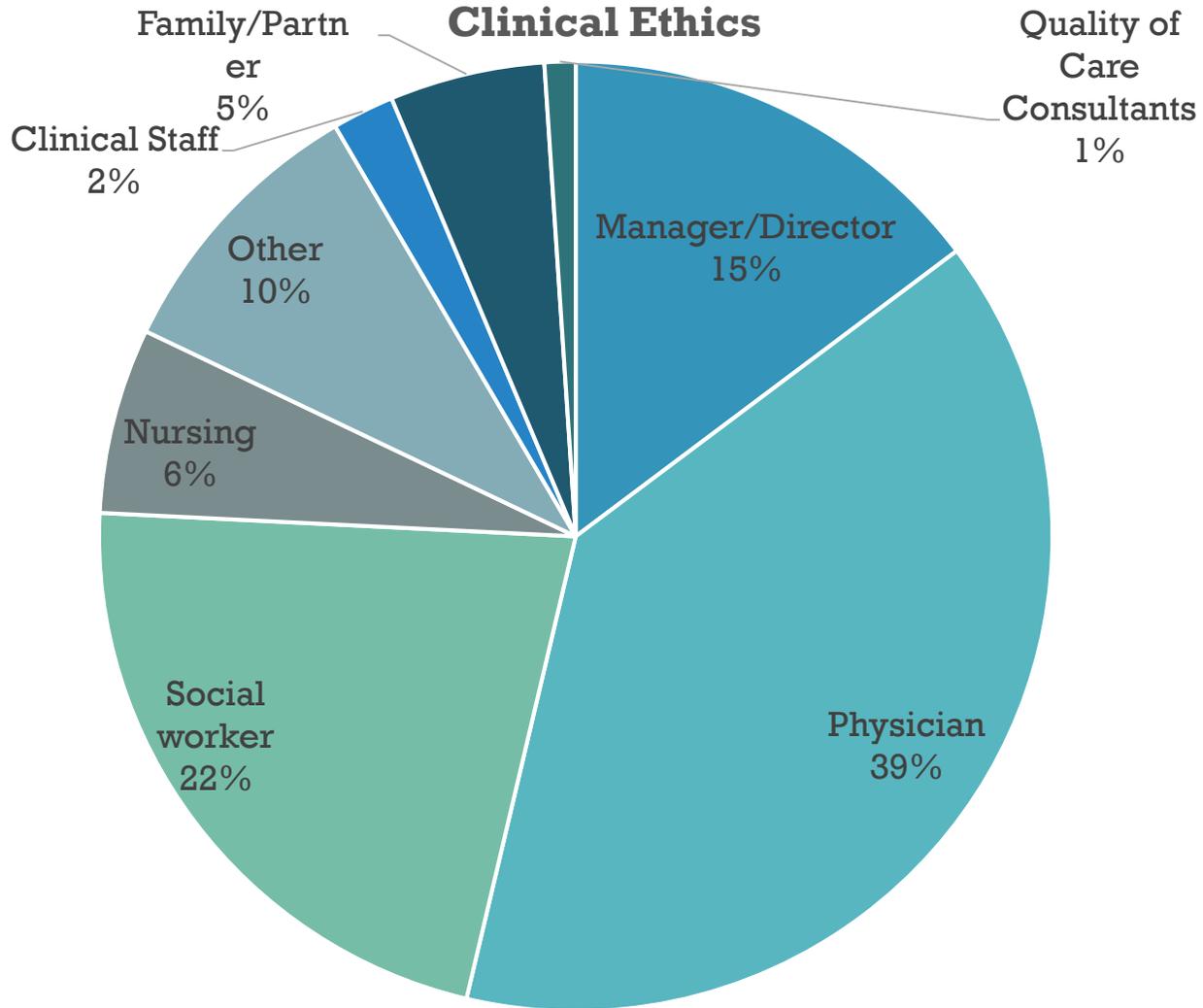
WHO can contact ethics

- ▶ Any member of the health care team
- ▶ Patients
- ▶ Families

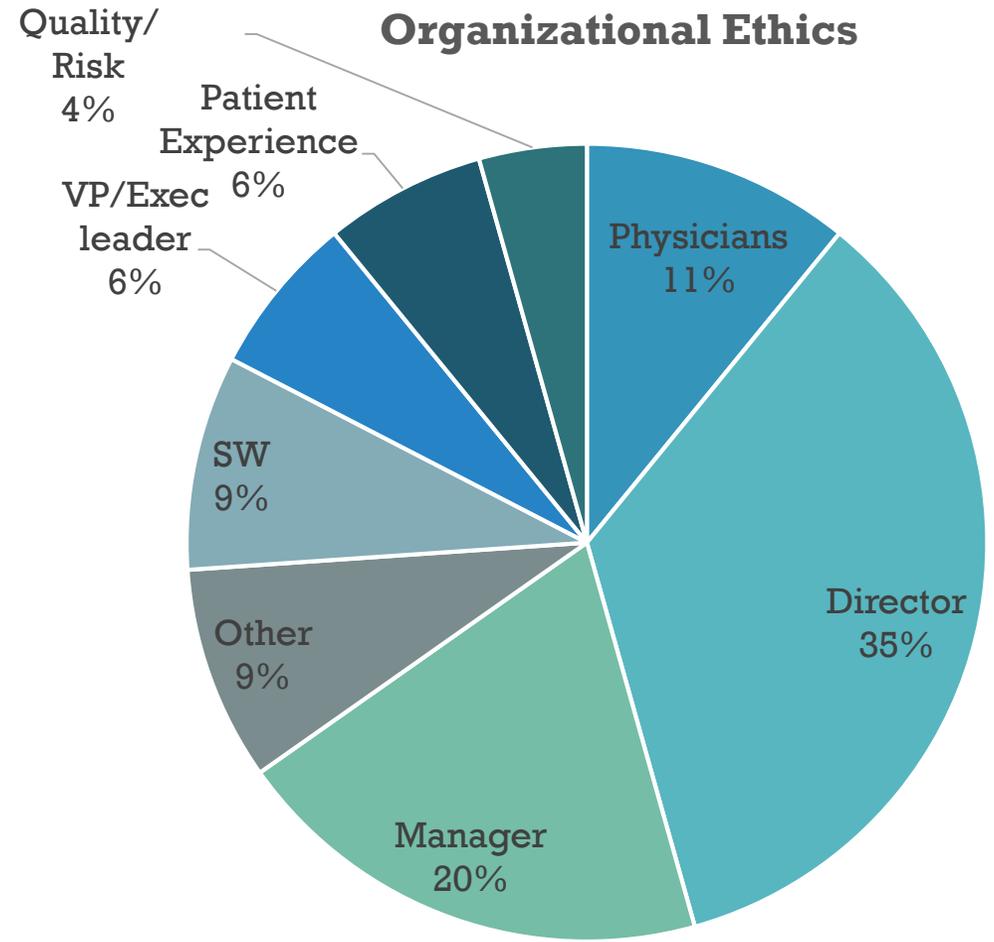


DISCIPLINE OF REQUESTER

Clinical Ethics



Organizational Ethics



WHO is on the ethics team?

The Ethics team is comprised of

- The Director of ethics- Andrea Frolic
- 3 full time permanent clinical and organizational ethicists
 - Jami- Leigh Sawyer- Covers all HHS Children and Women units and sites
 - Winifred Badaiki- Covers all other HHS sites and unit
 - Catherine Gee- Covers our Regional Ethics Network (BCHS, GGH, JBH, NGH, WHGH).
- 2 Ethics Fellows- Sun Drews and Carlee Seiler
- In the region, each organization has a team of trained ethics consultants who are also staff within the sites

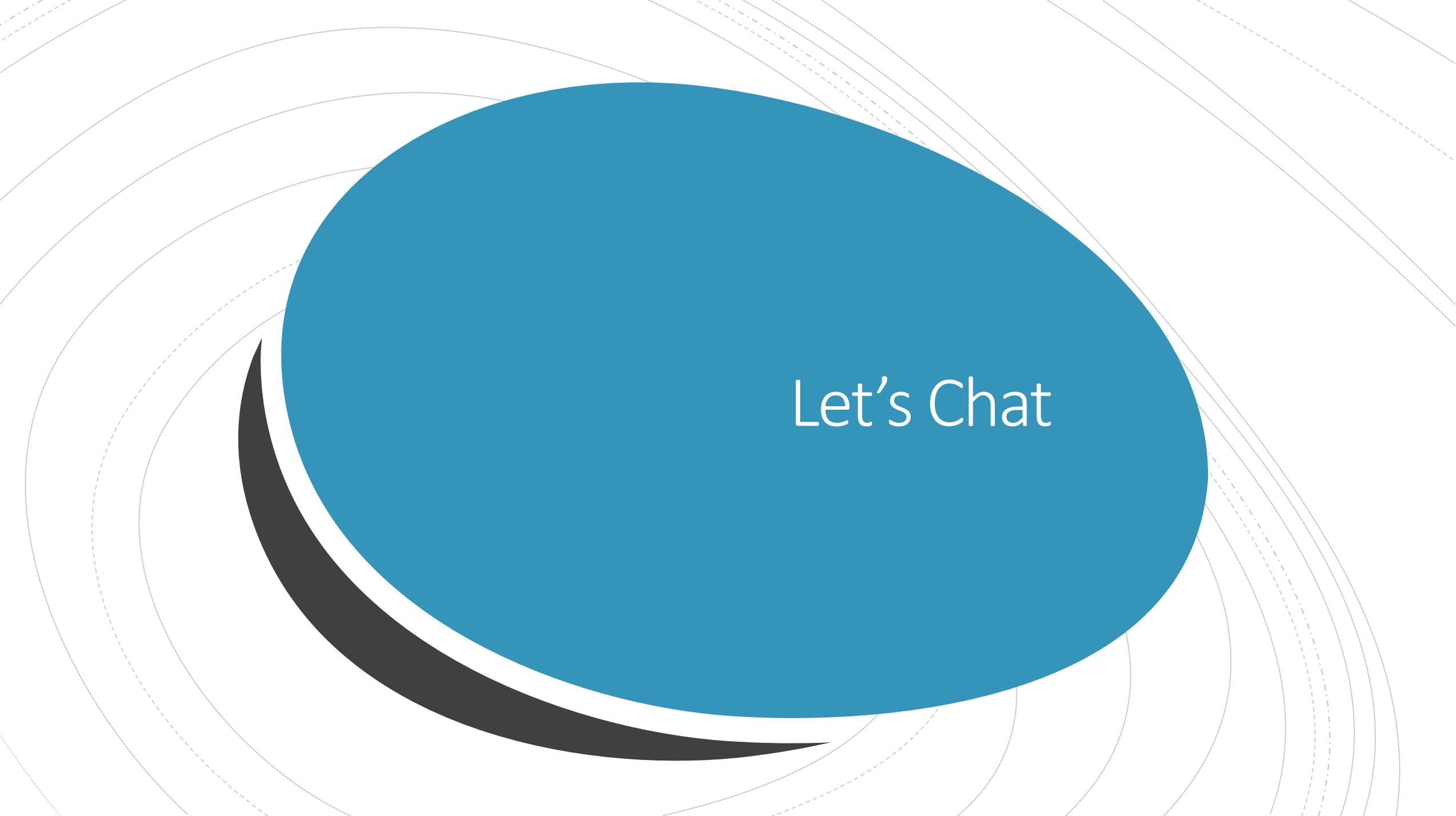
- Call paging and ask for ethics consultant on call (Monday-Friday 8:30 – 4:30pm)
- E-mail officeofethics@hhsc.ca
- Call the office at ext. 73661
- An order can be placed through EPIC

How to
contact
Ethics

HOW do we do what we do

- ▶ Ethics Coaching;
- ▶ Ethics Education;
- ▶ Ethics Facilitation;
- ▶ Ethics Case Debriefing.





Let's Chat



www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca