Who Provides Ethics Consultation?

Ethics Consultation is provided by a team of health care professionals within each hospital. All Ethics Consultants are trained in responding to ethics consultation requests. The team is supported by the Hamilton Health Sciences Office of Ethics.

How do I access the Ethics Consultation Service?

You can connect with the Ethics Consultation Service at your hospital through the contact below:

- **Brant Community Healthcare System:** ethicsconsultation@bchsys.org
- **Guelph General Hospital:** ethicsconsultants@gghorg.ca
- **Joseph Brant Hospital:** ethics@josephbranthospital.ca
- **Norfolk General Hospital:** ethicsconsult@ngh.on.ca
- **West Haldimand General Hospital:** regionalethics@hhsc.ca

You can reach the Regional Ethics Network directly at **regionalethics@hhsc.ca**

Resources

The Regional Ethics Network (REN) website contains many resources to support ethical decision-making.

For more information visit:
regionalethicsnetwork.com
or scan the code below

Notes

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Regional Ethics Network

Ethics Consultation Service

Bringing Ethics to Life in Healthcare

Affiliated Partners:

Brant Community Healthcare System
Guelph General Hospital
Joseph Brant Hospital
Norfolk General Hospital
West Haldimand General Hospital

Hamilton Health Sciences

What is Ethics

Ethics is about reflecting on our values and making decisions that are values-based.

Typical ethical questions include:

What should we do?
(What actions are good or right?)

Why should we do it?
(Exploring the reasons for our decisions.)

How should we do it?
(What plan is most ethical?)

Patients, families, staff, doctors, and trainees make up the health care team. Health care teams make ethical decisions every day in caring for patients.

However, when teams face difficult choices or conflict arises, the Ethics Consultation Service provides a process to help. This process allows the team to consider their personal and professional values, and to reflect on what is best for patients.

Any member of the health care team, including patients and families, may contact the Ethics Consultation Service for support.

When should I contact the Ethics Consultation Service?

If you find yourself struggling with a difficult ethical decision, or wondering what is the right thing to do in a complex patient care situation, think about contacting the Ethics Consultation Service. An Ethics Consultant will speak with you to find out your needs and may offer:

- education and guidance
- referrals
- facilitation of team discussions
- conflict resolution support, also called mediation

Ethics Consultants do not make decisions for others, but they do support those facing difficult choices by exploring all options.

Common situations where Ethics Consultants can help include:

- disagreements regarding the plan of care or goals of treatment for a patient
- uncertainty about how to make decisions for a patient who lacks capacity to make their own decisions
- what treatment is best for a patient

If you are not sure if the Ethics Consultation Service can help in your situation, please contact us and we will discuss your situation and connect you to the right service.

What is involved in an Ethics Consultation?

Ethics Consultants assist the process of making ethical decisions by:

- discussing the facts of the situation with everyone involved to make sure that the issues, choices, goals, and likely outcomes are clearly understood
- exploring ethical values, principles, norms, policies, standards, and resources
- clearly identifying the patient's goals, values, wishes, and best interests
- mediating and resolving conflicts between parties
- helping the health care team agree on the right course of action

Ethics Consultants respect the privacy of everyone involved, within legal limits.