

Ethics Consultation Service

What is the Ethics Consultation Service (Ethics)?

- ◆ Difficult decisions are made in the hospital and may require support.
- ◆ These decisions may be about your, or your loved one's, care.
- ◆ Ethics provides a supportive setting for discussion and communication about ethical issues you may be experiencing.

Who can use Ethics?

- ◆ Anyone may access Ethics, at any time, for any reason.
- ◆ As a patient or family member, you do not need to tell the care team prior to reaching out.

Why should I use Ethics?

- ◆ An ethical issue can emerge anytime values are involved in care and decision-making.
- ◆ Ethics can help you navigate questions, problems, and decisions that challenge your values or seem unfair.

What can I expect?

- ◆ At the consultation we will:
 - Identify the issue or issues
 - Clarify the medical, psychological, social information, and context
 - Identify ethical principles and values in conflict
 - Explore options that emerge.
 - Facilitate decision-making between you and your healthcare team
- ◆ Ethics will not impose solutions or make any decisions for you.

Is the service confidential?

- ◆ Ethics is bound by the NHH policy concerning the release of patient information and the Ontario Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004.
- ◆ A summary of the consultation may be added as part of the patient's health record depending on case-by-case needs.

How can I contact an Ethicist?

- ◆ Contact Ethics at ethics@nhh.ca

Who provides the consult?

- ◆ Ethicists with graduate degrees and specialized training in bioethics provide all consults.

Here are some example cases:

- ◆ Anna-Mae is a 43-year old patient at NHH. She does not want care and wishes to be discharged home. Her team wants her to stay and are indicating that if she doesn't comply they will make her incapable. Anna-Mae knows she is capable, but is worried this might be taken away from her.
- ◆ Minh is a 71 year-old man with dementia who has been declining over the past few months. He is incapable and his son Trang is his substitute decision-maker. The team has approached Trang to discuss options, but he does not know what his father would want done. He feels stuck and wishes someone could help.

We use the **IDEA Ethics Framework** to work through an ethical issue.

I	IDENTIFY - the facts
D	DETERMINE - ethical principles in conflict
E	EXPLORE - options
A	ACT - on your decision, and evaluate it

Please contact **NHH Ethics** with any questions or concerns
ethics@nhh.ca
After hours contact the Manager on Call.



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NHH ETHICS CONSULTATION SERVICE

**Ethics Consults:
A guide for
patients and
families**



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