
What happens in an Ethics Consult?

The case is reviewed by a member of the team to determine the nature of the dilemma. Sometimes, the problem can be resolved by that person. If necessary other members of the team will be called together to work with all those involved. The consultants help facilitate a discussion of the situation and clarify ethical issues at hand.

Who can request an Ethics

Physicians, patients, nurses, chaplains, social workers, families, or anyone directly involved in the case.

Whom Do I Contact?

Call the Director of Mission Services at 973-4411 ext. 3123.

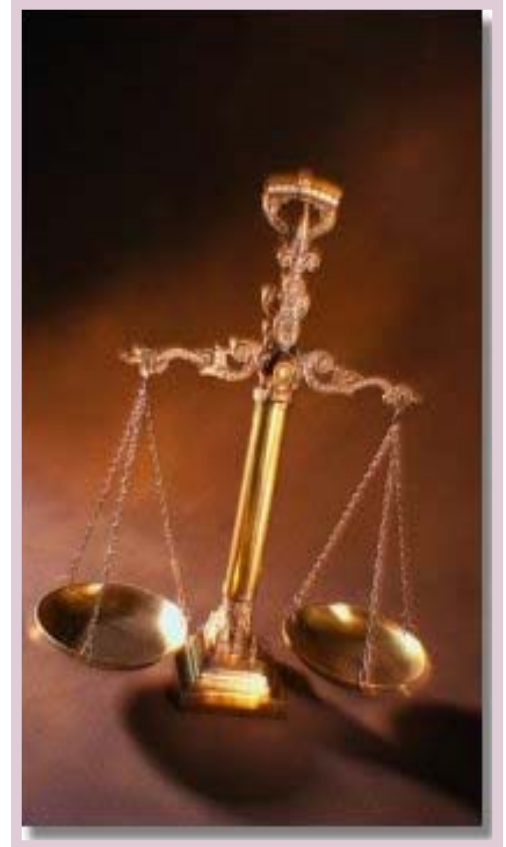
Values and Principles

Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital believes in the values and principles stated in the Health Care Ethics Guide (Catholic Health Association of Canada) and the Positional Statements of The Salvation Army.

Confidentiality

Ethics Consultations follow the Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital's policy relating to confidentiality of patient

 **Hôtel-Dieu Grace
Hospital**



***Ethics
Consultation
Service***

Where do you go when the answers aren't so clear?

What is an Ethics Consultation Service?

In health care it is often necessary to make difficult decisions. We may be faced with several options, and we may need to weight them against the benefits and risks, as well as what is really important in our lives.

Ethics Consultation is an advisory service that assists people to make the best choice in a difficult an emotional situation. It s purpose is to discuss and help in identifying, analyzing and resolving ethical dilemmas in ways that are consistent with the Mission and Values of our hospital.

No fees are charged for this service and all consults are kept strictly confidential.

Who provides Ethics Consultation?

The Ethics Consultation Service is provided by members of the Ethics Consult Team.

Members of the Team may include representatives of medicine, nursing, pastoral care and other professional and administrative staff and community representatives. Personnel with expertise in various key areas will be called upon when necessary to form appropriate teams.

The Ethics Consult Team Can Help

Examples of Ethical Issues

A Patient, family member, physician or staff may have concerns or questions about a plan of care that seems to conflict with what the patient wanted, the team can help with such issues.

- Personal directives and end-of-life discussions
- Withholding and withdrawing treatment
- Organ donation / transplantation

Steps to take before requesting

The following steps will help determine if a consult is necessary:

- Bring your concerns to your unit director or coordinator.
- Discuss the issue with the physician involved in the case.
- Involve a Chaplain or Social Worker
- Invite family to meet with staff to discuss concerns.

If there is no resolution to the issue request a consult.

Consultation Process

Step 1 : accessing the Ethics Consultation Service

Contact the Director of Pastoral Services at 973-4411 ext. 3123.



Step 2 : within 24 hrs. a team member will contact the person requesting the consult to:

- Explain the role of the team;
- Explore the issue;
- Identify the information required;
- Answer questions regarding the Service;
- Determine whether further discussion of the issue is required.



Step 3 : the Ethics Team will then...

- Meet with the appropriate persons and review the patient's history, present status and other pertinent information;
- Consult with appropriate patient care providers including physicians;
- Follow-up with appropriate persons to discuss the advice, concerns and a plan of action.