

ACT

7. Articulate the Decision

- Which alternative best reflects the ranking of values?
- Which alternative best balances more of the values?
- Have any other alternatives come to light?

8. Implement the Plan

- How best to communicate the decision?
- Who needs to know it?
- How best to document the process?
- Who needs to act?

9. Concluding Review

- What are the feelings of those involved?

Ethics consultation is available to patients, families, staff, volunteers and students on a wide range of ethical issues across the life span. This includes value conflicts around decisions such as withholding or withdrawing treatment, consent and capacity, resource allocation and organizational ethics.

Process to access ethical consultation:

- Request made to Department Manager
- Department Manager consults Chairperson of Mission & Ethics Committee or designate to organize an ethics consultation
- Ethics consultation will be scheduled on a date convenient to all participants.

MISSION

Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre is a community of holistic and compassionate care for all those who seek our service and those who serve.

As a Roman Catholic facility, grounded in God's love, we provide the resources and care to enable people to reach their optimal level of health and well-being.

VALUES

Spirituality

Professionalism

Innovation

Responsible Stewardship

Integrity

Teamwork



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Reference: Ethics Consultation Policy I-270



Principle and Values Based Framework/ Process for Ethical Decision Making

Adapted from the CHAC Health Ethics Guide



Comfort. Care. Hope.

STEPS FOR RESOLVING ETHICAL DILEMMAS

OBSERVE

1. Identify the Problem

- Name the problem clearly.
- Where is the conflict?

2. Acknowledge Feelings

- What are the “gut” reactions?
- Biases? Loyalties?

3. Gather the Facts

- What are the ethically relevant facts?
- Whose account of the “facts” counts?
- Have all the relevant perspectives been obtained?
- **What do the institution’s policies or guidelines say?**
- **What does the relevant law say? ***

* Legal information is not the same as legal advice, where legal advice is the application of the law as to an individual’s specific circumstances.

A. Clinical factors for consideration in bio-medical ethics issues include:

- Diagnosis / Prognosis
- Quality of life
- Patient / Substitute Decision Maker wishes
- Contextual features
 - Religious / beliefs
 - Culture
 - Psycho-social factors (history, family situation)
 - Relationships

B. Factors for consideration in business/ organizational ethics include:

- Governance
- Partnerships
- Allocation / rationing of services; wait lists
- Conscientious objection
- Employer/employee relationships
- Conflict of interest
- Alternative sources of revenue
- Abuse of care providers
- Whistleblowing / dealing with complaints

DELIBERATE

4. Consider Alternatives

- What are the alternative courses of action?
- What are the likely consequences?

5. Examine Values

- What are the preferences of the person receiving care?
- Are others’ values relevant?
- Which of the values are in conflict?

6. Evaluate Alternatives

A. Identify appropriate decision makers

B. Rank all relevant values, i.e. values at HDSHRC. These values are based on values set out in the CHAC Health Ethics Guide: dignity of every human being and the interconnectedness of every human being. They also ground the ethical values of autonomy, beneficence / non-maleficence and justice.

Justify ranking by appealing to principles as set out in the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada’s Health Ethics Guide, i.e. **principle of totality** (a holistic perspective of the human person and/or the institution), **principle of double effect** (cannot intentionally desire to cause harm in order to do good), **principle that benefits must be equal to or greater than burden/harm**, **principle of legitimate co-operation** (cannot intend to co-operate with immoral acts), **principle of subsidiarity** (decisions should be taken as close to the grass roots as possible), **principle of information choice**, **principle of confidentiality**. Evaluate the consequences in terms of principles. What alternatives are excluded?