

Who provides Ethics Consultation?

Ethics Consultation is provided by a team of health care professionals trained in health ethics as well as mediation and communication skills.

How do I access the Ethics Consultation Service?

Anyone with an ethical question or issue may call the Ethics Consultation Service.

Call Paging at (905) 521-2100 (ext. 76443) and ask to speak to the Ethics Consultation Service. Leave your name and phone number. An Ethics Consultant will call you back.

Ethics Consultation is available Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

After hours leave a message by email at officeofethics@hhsc.ca. An Ethics Consultant will get back to you the next business day.

Resources

For more information visit our website:

hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/ethics

Email us at:

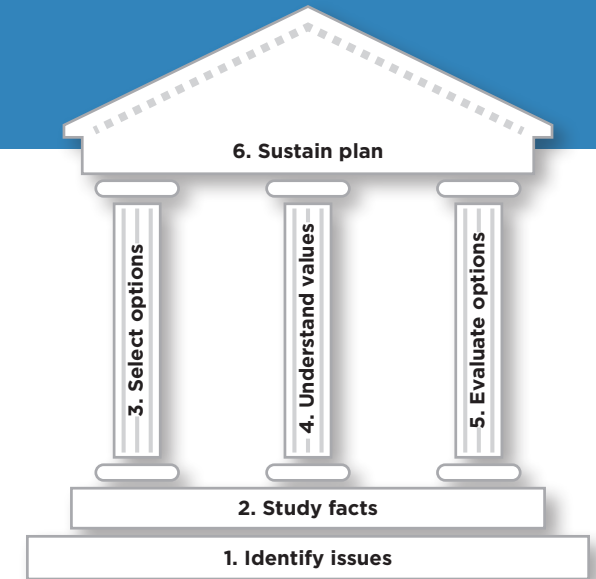
officeofethics@hhsc.ca



Ethics Consultation Service



Notes:



Guiding you through tough decisions.

What is ethics?

Ethics is part of life. Ethics is about reflecting on our values and how they impact our decisions. Our values inform how we care for others.

Ethics is about pausing to consider:

What should we do?

Why should we do it?

How should we do it?

Which values should guide us?

What is an ethical issue?

Patients, families and healthcare teams make ethical decisions on a daily basis. But sometimes the right choice isn't clear.

You may be facing an ethical issue if:

- You are feeling stuck or confused about the right thing to do.
- There is conflict amongst the family or team.
- You feel caught between different values or goals.
- You are worried about possible harms or risks.
- You feel anxiety or distress about a decision.

HHS has an Ethical Framework and resources to help address ethical issues.

What is Ethics Consultation?

When patients, families and healthcare teams face ethical issues, the Ethics Consultation Service can help people to reflect on the situation and consider what is best for the patient.

Ethics Consultants do not make decisions for others. They provide support for decision-making by:

- ✓ Gathering information from different perspectives.
- ✓ Making sure all voices are heard.
- ✓ Supporting safe, clear communication.
- ✓ Identifying values and principles.
- ✓ Weighing options.
- ✓ Exploring the patient's goals, values, wishes and best interests.
- ✓ Mediating and resolving conflicts.
- ✓ Empowering people to make the best choices possible.

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

When should I contact the Ethics Consultation Service?

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

Common situations where Ethics Consultants can help include:

- ✓ You are uncertain how to make the right decisions for yourself or your loved one.
- ✓ You are unclear about whether a patient has capacity to make his/her own decisions.
- ✓ You feel caught between different opinions about which care or discharge plan is best.
- ✓ You find yourself in conflict with your healthcare team.
- ✓ You are concerned the team is not attending to the social, cultural, and emotional needs of a patient.

If you find yourself struggling with an ethical issue, or wondering what is the right thing to do, think about contacting the Ethics Consultation Service.

Guiding you through tough decisions.