

Statement of Purpose

Reflecting on the Mission Statement and Core Values of St. Joseph's Health, the Ethics Committee serves as a resource to foster communication and education about moral and ethical issues and clinical decision-making.

For information regarding the Ethics Committee and the ethics consult process, call 973-754-2061 | 3016



St. Joseph's University Medical Center, Paterson
St. Joseph's Wayne Medical Center, Wayne
St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Paterson

OUR MISSION

St. Joseph's Health is a healing ministry of the Catholic Church sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. We are committed to sustaining and improving individual and community health, with a special concern for those who are poor, vulnerable and underserved.

OUR VISION

To enhance, strengthen and expand our legacy of service across the region while maintaining our commitment to quality and compassionate care.

OUR VALUES

Our core values express our deep convictions and strong beliefs. They define how we operate, behave, and interact on a day-to-day basis – as we integrate and affirm our values in all that we do.

DIGNITY

We believe that human life is sacred and every person will be treated with respect.

CHARITY

We embrace all who seek our help by bringing God's love and compassionate care.

JUSTICE

We advocate for the needs of all, especially the most vulnerable. We are committed in all our endeavors to be ethical, fair-minded and honest.

EXCELLENCE

We hold ourselves accountable to the highest possible standards of clinical and service quality.

STEWARDSHIP

We use our resources, both human and financial, in a responsible manner with a special commitment to the care of those who are poor, vulnerable and underserved.

The ETHICS Consultation Service and Committee



**The Ethics Committee seeks
to promote patient care
through Dignity, Charity, Justice,
Excellence and Stewardship.**



Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Ethics Consultation Service and Committee

The Ethics Consultation

The goal of an ethics consultation is to focus on the ethical issues which may arise in a patient's care in order to enhance the quality of care.

Ethics consultations provide support and guidance for family members and care providers.

What can a consultation accomplish?

- Clarify Issues
- Facilitate Decision-Making
- Encourage Communication and Understanding
- Dialogue about Options and Consequences
- Identify and Help Manage Resources
- Provide Recommendations

When is an Ethics Consultation appropriate?

- When the ethical issues are unclear
- When decision-making cannot be completed
- When a decision-maker cannot be identified
- When there is a significant disagreement among patients, family and/or care providers

What should be considered when requesting a consultation?

- Why the consultation is needed
- Patient's rights
- Patient's wishes and values
- Family wishes
- Integrity of caregivers
- Medical facts
- Current knowledge of the patient's condition
- Authorized decision-maker
- Options available
- Benefits and burdens to patient
- Nature of disagreements

How can one request an Ethics Consultation?

You can request an ethics consultation by calling the

ETHICS HOTLINE

973.754.3633 or e-mail

Ethicshotline@sjhmc.org

You can also ask your doctor, nurse, chaplain, patient representative or social worker to contact someone for you or dial the in-house operator

(by pressing "0") and tell the operator that you need to contact the Ethics Committee.

What to expect after a case is referred for an ethics consult.

When an ethics consult is received, the case is referred to a physician consultant who evaluates the case from a medical/ethical standpoint and determines if an Ethics Committee consult is needed.

Ethics Committee Functions

- Providing ethics education for patients, families, employees, healthcare providers, community members
- Ethics Consultations
- Ethics Case Reviews

Ethics Committee Membership

- Board of Trustee members
- Hospital Administration
- Healthcare Providers
- Community Representatives
- Chaplains