

## 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  
St. Joseph's Healthcare & Rehab Center, Cedar Grove

## 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

Creating a healthier future for all... inspired by faith, fueled by innovation and driven by exceptional people.

## 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 patient, 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