Helping You With Life’s Most Difficult Choices

Ethics at Atlantic Health System

Atlantic Health System has a long tradition in bioethics that has grown and evolved into a robust program providing ethical guidance for patients, families, and care providers. We draw upon expertise found in ethics, law, medicine, and the humanities to promote reasoned ethical analysis of complex issues within our hospital setting and the healthcare community.

About Us

Our consultants have special training and experience in bioethics and mediation. The committee overseeing the consultants has expertise in medicine, patient’s rights, case law and policies governing medical care, and medical humanities. We strive to rapidly respond to consultation requests, provide ethical analysis, and offer recommendations to address ethical concerns.

Contact Us

For more information about our services or to request a consult, please call 973-829-4600.
Offering Caring Conversations in Difficult Situations

In today’s world of complex medical care, decisions about treatment must take into account many factors. Sometimes differences of opinion about the best plan of care can cause stress and uncertainty for patients, their loved ones and the medical team. Our Bioethics Consultation Service is available to any of these individuals, and can provide support in difficult situations.

Common Concerns
› Uncertainty or conflicts in medical decision making
› Differences in the goals of care
› Issues surrounding the beginning and end of life
› The benefits and burdens of treatment
› Decision making for your patient or loved one

Consultations are provided free of charge at the request of any patient, family member, loved ones, physician, or health care professional who has an ethical concern related to the care of the patient.

What Does an Ethics Consultant Do?
› Meets personally with the individual requesting a consult.
› Collects information from all sources: patient, loved ones, health care providers and the clinical record.
› Provides an opportunity for caring, thoughtful conversation.
› Assists all involved to weigh the benefits vs. burdens of different care options.
› Examines each case objectively.
› Offers recommendations based on ethical principles.
› Maintains strict confidentiality regarding the consultation and all those involved.

Note: Recommendations are not binding and final care decisions are made by the patient, family and physician.

Our Promise to Patients and Families

Professionalism - We will introduce ourselves and tell you why we are here.

Respect - We will respond to your individualized needs and concerns.

Involvement - We will keep you informed and involved in your plan of care.

Dignity - We will be sensitive to your emotional, physical, spiritual and cultural needs.

Excellence - We will provide excellent patient care with every interaction.