

# Ethics Decision Making Process

Health care decisions require that facts, options, outcomes and consequences be carefully deliberated. There are a number of templates available for decision making in health care. The following is a decision making process adapted from Kirby (2008) that provides guidance to assist the Board of Trustees, senior executive, leadership, staff, clients, and families when making difficult decisions

## 1. Consult with relevant stakeholders

- Identify and assemble relevant stakeholders and decision makers.

## 2. Identify and reflect on ethics principles and relevant documents

- Western Health Code of Ethics
- Western Health Vision and Values
- Western Health Strategic Plan
- Basic ethical principles

## 3. Clarify the ethical issue and review information

- Identify the specific issue and its context from relevant perspectives (may utilize Ethics Screening Form).
- Gather and examine all relevant information, including areas of risk. A facilitated ethics consultation may be appropriate.

## 4. Identify the options

- Identify and assess response options, including burdens and benefits of each option.
- Choose the most appropriate option. If consensus is not possible, use individual voting with the majority vote determining response option.

## 5. Make a decision and evaluate

- Make a commitment to the choice. Agree to support the decision, regardless of individual vote.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy.
- Review the decision and evaluate the outcomes.