



NL Health Services

Ethics Screening Tool

This screening tool is intended to help you focus on issues that allow you to identify a case or situation appropriate to refer for an ethics consultation. This screen does not cover every issue and matter that could lead to an ethics consult but it would prompt most matters for a consultation.

Values

Is there a plan or activity that clashes with something I hold as important?

- My personal values
- My professional ethics, professional values, or Code of Conduct and Professional Practice
- Our organizational values

Decisions

Is there a clash, confusion, dispute, or ambivalence about the decision making?

- Who should make the decision
- Competence
- Substitute decision-maker
- Best interest of patient/resident/client/family member
- Information exchange
- Current wishes
- Advanced Health Care Directive

Care Plan

Is there confusion or dispute over the plan of care?

- Goal is unclear (why are we doing this?)
- Status has changed and the goal has not been appropriately revised
- Interventions seem futile
- Disproportion of risk and pain over benefit

Other

- Gut feeling (something doesn't feel right about this)
- Confidentiality
- Consensus among team and/or other that an open discussion is needed in this case
- Patient/resident/client/family member questions the ethics of care or options

For more information, please contact:

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