

Beaumont[®]

Subject Clinical Ethics Procedure Beaumont Health System		No. 309-1	Page 1 of 2
Content Expert(s) Institutional Ethics Committee	Prior Issue Date	Issue Date 12/17/13	

GENERAL:

In the event that clinical ethical issues arise in the care of a patient there is a mechanism in place to address these concerns in a respectful manner through a clinical ethics consultation service (Ethics Case Consultation team).

Situations may occur where well meaning persons disagree about a patient's care. The Ethics Case Consultation team is responsible to provide clinical ethics consultation to advise the care team regarding ethical issues related to patient care. The Ethics Case Consultation team is drawn from the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service covering a particular area of responsibility (see paragraph 6 below).

PROCEDURE:

1. Patients and their families are notified of the availability of clinical ethics case consultation service via the patient information booklet (PATIENT VISITOR GUIDE) given to each patient shortly after admission.
2. Medical and nursing staff are informed of the availability of clinical ethics case consultation service during orientation.
3. Any member of the care team can request an ethics case consultation. No one (including attending or consulting physicians) has the authority to prevent or rescind this request.
4. A physician wishing ethics case consultation may enter an order when desired in the medical record. This order cannot be rescinded by anyone but the originator of the order.
5. If a patient, surrogate, family member or member of the health care team requests an ethics case consultation, Nursing will notify the attending physician and will document the request in the medical record. The request can be made calling one of the telephone numbers noted below in paragraph 6.
6. A request for a clinical ethics case consultation is made by contacting the appropriate site representative as listed:
 - a. **Ambulatory Centers, Nursing Homes, Home Health, and Hospice:** Contact 248-743-9400
 - b. **Grosse Pointe:** Contact the Bioethics hotline at 313-473-6742. Members of the Ethics Case Consultation team will be notified of the request.
 - c. **Royal Oak:** Contact the Hospital Bioethics Hotline at 248-551-4747. The secretary will log in the request and ensure that Spiritual Care and the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service director or a designee has been notified.
 - d. **Troy:** Contact Administration at 248-964-1000 during 0800-1630 Monday through Friday. If outside this time frame, the party requesting ethics consultation will be informed of delay, and the unit secretary will be responsible for contacting Administration as soon as possible the next day.

PATIENT CARE – CORPORATE POLICIES

Disclaimer: User must ensure that any printed copies of this policy/procedure are current by checking the policy/procedure web page before use.

Beaumont®

Subject Clinical Ethics Procedure Beaumont Health System		No. 309-1	Page 2 of 2
Content Expert(s) Institutional Ethics Committee	Prior Issue Date	Issue Date 12/17/13	

PROCEDURE: (Cont'd)

7. Patients and/or their surrogates should be informed of any pending ethics case consultation and asked if they would like to participate. If the patient or surrogate does not wish to participate in the consultation, it may proceed without the involvement of the patient/family, if the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service director determines that it will be productive to do so.
8. The Clinical Ethics Consultation Service director or designee will contact the attending physician to determine whether the request is within the defined scope and purpose of clinical ethics case consultation. If the attending physician objects to the proposed ethics case consultation, the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service director or designee will attempt to resolve the issue. If the attempt to resolve the attending physician's objection is unsuccessful, the matter will be referred to the attending physician's department Chief and the Physician-in-Chief of the site. At the same time, the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service director or designee will decide if the ethics case consultation is appropriate and, if it is determined to be so, may proceed with the consult without participation of the attending physician.
9. When the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service Director or designee determines the request for ethics case consultation is within the mission of the Ethics Case Consultation Service, he/she will request that an Ethics Case Consultation team be convened according to the site specific process.
10. Following site personnel review, if a decision is made that a meeting of the Ethics Case Consultation team is not needed, this decision and its rationale will be conveyed to the person making the request. All requests will be reviewed by the respective site Clinical Ethics Consult Service or Ethics Committee.
11. When a case involves a potential conflict of interest for the Ethics Case Consultation team leader, he/she will turn over the responsibility to another member of the team.
12. At the conclusion of the ethics case consultation meeting, the team leader or designee will enter a note in the patient's medical record indicating the Ethics Case Consultation team's assessment of the ethical issues and recommended course of action with ethical justification. The attending physician will be contacted by the Ethics Case Consultation team leader with these findings.
13. A summary report of the ethics case consultation will be made by the site specific team leader to the Beaumont Institutional Ethics Committee, which will determine any further action. As appropriate, the Ethics Case Consultation team leader or designee will meet with the patient, family, surrogate or members of the health care team to inform them of this action.
14. Any member of the health care team involved in the care of a patient, the patient, or a member of the patient's family may initiate the process for ethics case consultation of individual cases on a retrospective basis. The appropriate Clinical Ethics Consultation Service director will determine the best way to review case findings and report results to the requesting party and to the Case Review subcommittee of the Beaumont Institutional Ethics Committee.

PATIENT CARE – CORPORATE POLICIES

Disclaimer: User must ensure that any printed copies of this policy/procedure are current by checking the policy/procedure web page before use.