

Ethics Consultation Service responds to requests to help resolve ethical conflicts, issues or questions involving patient care. This is a resource when:

- Patients, family members or healthcare professionals reach the limits of their abilities to address ethical questions.
- There is a conflict of values.
- There is ethical uncertainty.
- Individuals need a sounding board for ethical strategies and action steps.
- Assistance is needed to apply ethics-related CCHS policies/ SOPs (e.g. Patients Without Surrogates SOP, DNR Policy)

Reasons to request an ethics consult include:

- **Decision-making support** for patients and/or surrogate decision-makers.
- **Conflicts** about life-sustaining treatment or a DNR Order.
- **Identification** of an appropriate surrogate decision-maker.
- **Discussion** of ethically supportable strategies
- **Demands** for “futile” or medically inappropriate treatment.

The Ethics Consultation Service provides recommendations and advice. It does not replace standard medical consultation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can request an ethics consult?

- Anyone involved in a patient’s care.

Who pays?

- This service is free of charge.

Do I need approval/authorization?

- No. The attending physician will be notified and encouraged to participate.

Is it confidential?

- Requests for non-disclosure of consult requesters are honored.

Does the Ethics Consultation Service make decisions about patient care?

- No. The Ethics Consultation Service provides advisory recommendations.

How do I request an Ethics consult?

- **Main Campus:** page 14-22512.
- **Community Hospitals & CC Florida:** Please refer to the On-Call Directory (CCF Intranet)

Bioethics now offers Virtual Visits. Call 216-444-8720 for more information or to schedule an appointment.