

Ethics

Home Health Foundation and its Family of Agencies addresses ethical issues relating to patient care through the Vehicle of an Ethical Consultation. This consultation is available to assist all staff, patients and families, physicians, as well as those who are involved in decision making when appropriate.

The request for an Ethical consultation may be made by contacting Ethics Committee Chairperson @ 978- 552-4756 (Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm). Evenings and weekends the Clinical Supervisor may be contacted. The clinical Supervisor will then contact the appropriate Vice President.

Patient/Family with Ethical concerns may contact the Ethics Committee Chairperson @ 978-552-4756.

The Ethics Committee Chairperson clarifies the concern with the person requesting the consult. If the request is determined to be outside the scope of the Ethics Committee, the requesting party will be informed and alternative avenues will be suggested.

Home Health Foundation has established an Ethics Committee. The role of the Ethics Committee is to support patients, families and the agency's employees as they work together to find solutions/directions/guidance relative to ethical concerns.

Goals of the Ethics Committee:

- To serve as a forum for discussion and consultation of Ethical concerns.
- To provide Ethics education to Agency staff and the community.
- To assist in the formulation of Home Health Foundation policies and procedures related to Ethical issues.

The Ethics Committee Chairperson will be responsible to follow-up with the person(s) who requested a case consultation, in order to discuss findings/recommendations relative to the review process. The Ethics Committee Consultations are advisory and makes recommendations only. The Ethics Committee has no enforcement power. However the case consultation does provide a rational and non-judgmental forum for discussion and for exploration and clarification of values, bioethical principles and alternatives.

The Ethics Committee is advisory committee reporting to the Home Health Foundation's President/CEO. The President/CEO will inform the Board of Trustees concerning policies and issues addressed by the Ethics Committee as indicated.

Areas of Conflict that may give rise to Case Consultation include:

1. Refusal of treatment
2. Forgoing/withdrawing of life-sustaining treatment
3. Do not resuscitate (DNR) issues
4. Informed consent
5. Confidentiality
6. Family member/significant other disagreement regarding care of the patient

7. poor communication between caregivers and patient and family
8. Determining capacity to make decisions
9. Drug diversion, misuse of drugs
10. Lack of understanding options
11. Advance Directives
12. Palliative sedation