

How to Contact the Ethics Committee

To access the Ethics Committee, contact the following:

- Physician
- Nurse
- Social Worker
- Supervisor
- Manager
- Administrator

A member of the Committee will contact you. Ethics consultation services are offered at no charge.



Fairview Range

- Compassion
- Dignity
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Service

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Medical Ethics

Thinking Through Difficult Decisions



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*Always here.
Always caring.*

What is the Ethics Committee?

Our Ethics Committee offers assistance when a concern presents ethical or complex medical issues.

Remarkable advances in medicine, technology, drugs and treatment have produced vast changes in the practice of medicine. Most often, decisions about treatments are clear but sometimes questions may arise. The Ethics Committee at Fairview Range is available to patients, physicians, staff and significant others. The purpose is to provide a forum for discussion and clarification of issues such as DNR/DNI orders, termination of life support and living wills.

When is an Ethics Consultation useful?

An ethics consultation may be helpful when:

- A patient, family member or other health care professional wants help talking through important ethical dimensions of patient care.
- There are serious ethical disagreement among health care professionals or within the family.
- Decisions need to be made about life-prolonging medical treatment for patients unable to decide for themselves.

An example might include:

- When should a life-prolonging treatment (such as breathing machine, feeding tube or dialysis) be started, continued or stopped.

Ethics Committee Function

The Ethics Committee at Fairview Range is comprised of a multidisciplinary team, including physicians, nurses, administration, social work, chaplaincy and community representatives.

Other functions of the Ethics Committee include:

- case review
- educational programs
- ethics consultations
- policy review

The Ethics Committee does not give treatment decisions nor does it substitute for the patient/family/physician relationship. It functions in an advisory capacity only.

Ethics considerations rarely provide “easy answers”. Ethical issues may not be solved so much as resolved, by finding common group and clear communication. Fairview Range seeks to aid this process by providing resources to sort out values and preferences, providing an Ethics Committee to facilitate communication and adhering to ethical principles as a health care organization.

Questions to Guide Health Care Decisions

- Do you understand your health care situation, your medical options, their benefits and risks, and likely outcomes?
- Would you like further information to assist you in making treatment or care decisions?
- Would you like to talk with another physician, other family members, a hospital chaplain, social worker or counselor?
- What are your wishes, preferences and values? Are there any spiritual or cultural beliefs which may impact your medical decisions?
- Do you have a Health Care Directive? A Health Care Directive is a signed document giving directions about wishes for your future medical care. Is there an appropriate person to talk with concerning your wishes? Do you have someone appointed to make health care decisions for you if you are unable to speak?