Making Difficult Medical Decisions for Your Child
Help from the Bioethics Team

What is the Bioethics Team?
The Children’s Bioethics Team are consultants trained in medical ethics. We can help you make difficult medical decisions about your child’s care. We provide advice but will not tell you what to do or make a decision for you. We are separate from your medical team and other support services like Social Work and Pastoral and Spiritual Care.

How can the Bioethics Team help me and my child?
There may be a time when you are not sure how to choose between several difficult options about your child’s medical care.

Or, maybe you do not agree with the recommendations of your child’s healthcare team. We can help you and your team make the best decisions possible. We can:

- Talk you through pros and cons of a decision
- Help you clarify your thoughts and values related to your child’s care
- Gather information related to your decision
- Tell you if laws and policies apply to your child’s situation
- Communicate with your healthcare team and help with disagreements about your child’s care
- Offer advice and suggestions

What can I expect if I meet with the team?
Our team will schedule a time to talk with you.

The meeting is informal, and you do not need to prepare anything. You may include other family members and friends. We will ask you to describe the issue that concerns you. We may ask you to tell us more about what is important to you.

We will try to get a full picture of what the issue is and what your view point on it is, and why. Then we will make suggestions about what to do next.

Will what we talk about be private?
Yes. Our meetings are protected the same as your child’s medical record.

How much does it cost to meet with the team?
Children’s provides this service for free.

How do I call the Bioethics Team?
Patients, families or providers can call us at 206-987-2000 and ask for the bioethics consultant on call.