Bioethics Consultation Service
Finding solutions to challenging situations

Have you ever faced questions like these?

What should I do if a parent requests that I not tell a child about his/her illness?
What are my ethical obligations to a child with a chronic illness whose parents will not follow recommended care?
What should I do if a parent refuses a treatment that I think is life saving?
What should I do when a parent requests a treatment that I think is inappropriate?
What should I do if I think that a child’s perspective on treatment decisions is being ignored by the family?
How should I work with an adolescent who wants medical care without parental knowledge or permission?

We are here to help...
By providing a forum for conversation and analysis about ethical uncertainty or disagreements and offering advice and recommendations to families, clinical teams, and hospital leadership facing difficult decisions.

What does a consultation involve?
Depending on the needs of the care team and the family:
- A discussion by phone or in-person meeting
- A multi-disciplinary meeting with the care team
- A conversation with the patient or family

How is a Consultation different from the Ethics Committee?
Consultations are handled by an individual consultant or a team of consultants and fellows. The Ethics Committee oversees the Consultation Service and reviews consultations on a monthly basis.

Who will know about the consultation?
Within legal constraints, we can keep conversations confidential. We can provide a medical record note to document the discussion and help inform the care team.

Any clinician or family can request a consultation.

To make a request:
Call (206) 987-2000 and ask for the bioethics consultant on call
And
Place an order in CIS

Bioethics Consultants:
Douglas Diekema, MD, MPH
Ross Hays, MD
Douglas Opel, MD, MPH
Holly Tabor, PhD
Benjamin Wilfond, MD
David Woodrum, MD

For more information call (206) 884-8355
Or visit us at www.seattlechildrens.org/bioethics