



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

Did you know?
There's a Bioethics Team that can help you make difficult medical decisions about your child's care.

What is the Bioethics Team?

The Seattle Children's Bioethics Team is a group of 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 Spiritual Care.

How can the 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, your viewpoint on it, and why. Then we will make suggestions about what to do next.

Will what we talk about be private?

Yes. Our meetings are private. That privacy is protected the same way as your child's medical record.

How much does it cost to meet with the team?

This service is free.

How do I call the Bioethics Team?

Patients, families or providers can call us at 206-987-2000. Ask for the bioethics consultant on call.

To Learn More

- 206-987-2000
Ask for the bioethics consultant on call
- 206-884-8355
Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics
- Ask your child's healthcare provider

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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