

# 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?

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:

Emily Berkman, MD, MA  
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For more information call  
(206) 884-8355

Or visit us at

[www.seattlechildrens.org/  
bioethics](http://www.seattlechildrens.org/bioethics)

## 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.