

Contacting a bioethicist

Any staff, physician, patient or family member may contact Women's College Hospital Bioethics for informal or formal consultation.

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Health care for women | REVOLUTIONIZED

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womenshealthmatters.ca

womensresearch.ca

womenscollegehospitalfoundation.ca

Bioethics

Information for hospital staff, patients and family members about bioethics and Bioethics Consultation Services at Women's College Hospital



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What are ethics and bioethics?

Ethics is the attempt to give good reasons for what we want out of life, and what principles should guide how we achieve this.

Bioethics is the application of ethics to medicine and health care. Bioethics tries to understand how we should (versus can) respond to issues and dilemmas facing patients, families and health-care workers.

What is bioethics consultation?

Ethics consultation helps resolve ethical issues. The bioethicist is available to facilitate, advise and help patients, their family members and health-care providers with ethical issues in patient care and within health-care organizations.

What is a bioethicist?

A bioethicist is a professional who has been educated and trained to assist in complex situations where there are ethical issues, or issues about values, morals or beliefs.

While the bioethicist may advise physicians, caregivers, patients and family members on ethical issues, the bioethicist does not attempt to impose values on anyone.

A bioethicist can help

When someone visits the hospital for care, everyone involved – the patient, family members, doctors, nurses and therapists – would like the patient to receive the best care possible. A bioethicist can help:

- > when a patient is not sure about the best course of treatment or is unable to express those wishes, a bioethicist can help the patient's substitute decision-maker understand their role
- > when what is medically possible is different from the values and goals of the patient or family or hospital staff, a bioethicist can help mediate discussion between patients, family members and clinical professions
- > staff education on ethical issues
- > addressing moral distress and conflict of interest issues
- > policy, procedure and guideline review and development

Women's College & University Health Network (UHN) Partnership

Bioethics services are provided under an agreement with University Health Network (UHN).

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