

Committee Membership

The multi-disciplinary medical ethics committees consists of physicians, nurses, chaplains and a representative from administration, case management, pastoral care, hospice, quality and the local community.

Case Reviews

The medical ethics committees decide which cases are appropriate for a consultation. Once a case is accepted for a consultation, the medical ethics committee discusses it at its next scheduled meeting unless the urgency of the case warrants a meeting before that time. Emergency cases are reviewed by the committee within 24-48 hours. Following all case reviews, the chair of the medical ethics committee or designee will notify all parties involved of the committee's recommendations.

Meetings

The medical ethics committee meets regularly throughout the year.

HSHS Illinois Hospitals	HSHS Wisconsin Hospitals
HSHS St. John's Hospital	HSHS St. Vincent Hospital
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital	HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital	HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital	HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital
HSHS St. Francis Hospital	HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese	HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland	
HSHS Holy Family Hospital	
HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital	



Do you have a question for the
Medical Ethics Committee?

Addressing Ethical Questions
and Concerns for Patients,
Families and Staff



Hospital Sisters
HEALTH SYSTEM

“In a time of new medical discoveries, rapid technological developments and social change, what is new can either be an opportunity for genuine advance in human culture, or it can lead to policies and actions that are contrary to the true dignity and vocation of the human person. In consultation with medical professionals, church leaders review these developments, judge them according to the principles of right reason and the ultimate standard of revealed truth, and offer authoritative teaching and guidance about the moral and pastoral responsibilities entailed by the Christian faith.”

Taken from the General Introduction of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services Fifth Edition, Revised 2009

Background

Medical ethics committees are a valuable part of our HSHS history as we carry forth Christ’s healing mission. Medical ethics committees are advisory and help patients, families and health care professionals examine issues in light of the teachings of the Catholic Church and our HSHS mission. A committee is available to all HSHS care sites.

Purpose

The purpose of the medical ethics committees are fourfold:

- To serve as a resource in the development, review, revision and implementation of policies that have medical ethical implications.
- To provide a consultation process, support and information to those assisting patients and families.
- To further education in health care ethics among the members of the ethics committee, medical and hospital staffs, and the community served by the hospitals.
- To ensure compliance with the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.

Referrals

Referrals to the medical ethics committees are open to patients, families, hospital staff and physicians seeking guidance on medical ethical situations.

How to Access

You may access the medical ethics committee in the following ways:

- Let a representative from Spiritual Care know of your desire to speak with the Ethics Chair.
- Reach out to any Member of the Ethics Committee.
- Contact the ethics committee chair:
 - ~ Eastern Wisconsin: Chris Brabant and Ken Nelson
 - ~ Western Wisconsin: Anne Pretasky and Eric Butters
 - ~ St. John’s Springfield, St Mary’s Decatur, Medical Group, St. Anthony Effingham: Jill Crum, Dr. Ryan Jennings, or Dr. Gurpreet Mander
 - ~ St. Joseph’s Breese, Holy Family Greenville, St. Joseph’s Highland, Good Shepherd Shelbyville, St. Francis Litchfield: Mandi Ennen and Teresa Cornelius
 - ~ St. Elizabeth’s O’Fallon: Chance Beeler