

WHY ETHICS?

What is the best thing to do? What would cause the least harm? What am I obligated to do? What is my duty? Ethics is the study of questions like this and how to find answers to them. A doctor or nurse or family member might be faced with questions like “My love one wants to continue using her walker even though she is at risk of falling” and “Would it be right to stop feeding my loved one who has end stage dementia?”

“A newly placed resident wants to be discharged home where he can live the rest of his life in his home even though there are risks of injuring himself”

Questions like this can be hard to answer, and sometimes people will disagree about what to do. Ethics can help by providing a framework to deal with disagreements.

There is no guarantee that ethics will provide the answer, but sometimes it does, and that makes ethics a valuable resource when we are not sure what is best to do.

Because we want to provide the best possible care in a caring and compassionate atmosphere, we consider difficult ethical dilemmas in light of our mission, vision, and values.

WHO CAN REQUEST ETHICAL SUPPORT

RESIDENTS / PATIENTS

FAMILY MEMBERS

PHYSICIANS / CARE STAFF

ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE A

QUESTION OR CONCERN ABOUT THE CARE BEING PROVIDED

It is our goal to provide the best ethical support in order to ensure the most appropriate care is being delivered to each individual person in a manner that is respectful to all.

Ethics support available through
Brian Ducedre

Spiritual Care & Ethics Coordinator
Internal 68794
BlackBerry 250-218-4858



The Views at
St. JOSEPH'S
building a community of care
for seniors in the Comox Valley

Ethical Support

A Guide for Resolving
Ethical Dilemmas

“We value each person as a unique individual with a right to be respected and accepted.”

OUR VISION

Our vision is to become ever more able to serve the needs of resident/patients, families and the community with care, compassion and skill.

OUR MISSION

The Views at St. Joseph's is a care home community that respects the sacredness of all aspect of life, embodying the Christian principles of care with compassion in the catholic tradition.

OUR VALUES

Respect for Human Life

Compassion

Excellence

HEALTH ETHICS GUIDE

We conduct ethical reflection within the context of our mission, vision, values, and the 2012 Catholic *Health Ethics Guide*.

A Framework for Ethical Decision-Making

Ethical decision-making reflects our commitment to serve the best interests of each patient by considering difficult choices in light of our Mission, Vision, and Values.

1. Centre yourself

Take a quiet moment to focus on this resident/patient.

2. Name the ISSUE (s)

Defining the issue begins the vital process of reaching consensus on what the issue actually is.

3. Clarify the FACTS

- › Who, what, where, when, how, why?
- › What do we not know?
- › What are the relevant factors for this resident/patient: social, economic, political, legal, religious, spiritual, cultural?

4. Identify the STAKEHOLDERS

- › Is the resident/patient competent to make their own decision?
- › If not, who is the legal Substitute Decision Maker?
- › What are the various feelings and perspectives?

5. Identify the VALUES

- › What values are in conflict?
- › What values are being affirmed?

6. Identify the ETHICAL CHOICES

What are the options?

7. Make a DECISION

- › Which option advances the best care for this resident/patient?
- › Does it 'fit' this resident/patient's values? Does it align with our mission, vision, values?
- › What contingency plans are in place if the decision doesn't have the intended outcome or if there's conflict?

8. Take ACTION (S)

- › Who will take which action (s) when?
- › How will the decision be communicated to various stakeholders?

9. EVALUATE

- › Was it the best decision for this resident/patient?
- › What went well? What not so well?
- › What can we learn for our future practice?