

Addressing Ethical Concerns

Ideally, individuals should first attempt to address the concerns within the team.

Individuals may also discuss ethical issues with a member of the HHCC Ethics Committee. Contact one of the following members:

- Mary Wheelwright Ext. 2227 or Ext. 8261 (Shelburne)
- Doris Cassan Ext. 2010
- Barbara Moulton Ext. 2710

Staff members and physicians, patients and family also have access to the services of the Bioethicist:

Steve Abdool

Phone: (519) 824-1010, ext. 2118

Pager: (519) 827-8667

Email: steveabdool@ethika.ca

HHCC Ethics Committee
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Ethics Supports & Services for Headwaters Community



*We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but rather we have these because we have acted rightly.
~Aristotle~*

Ethics at Headwaters

Headwaters Health Care Centre has made a commitment to strengthen the process of ethical reflection and ethical decision-making throughout the organization. To support this commitment, the organization is a member of a shared ethics initiative called the Regional Centre for Excellence in Ethics.



The Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee is a multi-disciplinary committee that meets on a monthly basis. The Committee works with the bioethicist (Steve Abdool) to determine ethics needs, provide ethics education and/or consultation, monitor systemic ethical issues and evaluate ethics related policies and practices.

Ethical Issues

Anything that is "value-laden" is ethical in nature. This includes issues relating to rights, obligations, responsibilities, justice and fairness. Examples of ethical issues include demands for "inappropriate" treatments, quality end of-life care, capacity, consent, confidentiality, substitute decision-making, advance care planning, involving children in decision-making and many others.



Ethical Dilemmas

A clinical ethical dilemma arises when a patient, patient's family member, clinical staff, or physician has serious qualms or uneasiness about any situation in the delivery of health care. Either there does not appear to be a clear course of action or there are disagreements or conflicts of values, interests and perspectives.

Services Available

- ✓ Ethics rounds
- ✓ Clinical ethics consultations
- ✓ Conflict resolution/mediation sessions
- ✓ Assistance with accreditation
- ✓ Ethics seminars
- ✓ Review of policies and practices
- ✓ Review of research proposals
- ✓ Debriefing of staff following critical incidents
- ✓ Consultation with families and/or patients

