

How do we start to explore an ethics issue? We can use the IDEA Framework below

Step 1: Information Gathering –

- Describe the situation
- What are the medical or clinical or organizational facts?
- What does the client/SDM/health team want?
- What evidence is available?
- What other influences are there?

Ask: Is there an ethical issue? Why? What is it?

STEP 2: Determine the ethical principles-

- Who are all the stakeholders?
- What ethical principles should be considered? Why?

Ask: Have other viewpoints been considered? Have any been missed?

Step 3: Explore - Analyze

- What are the options? Consider strength and weaknesses of each
- Consider laws and policies that might apply
- Does the chosen option support our Mission, Vision and Values

Ask: What option can be best defended ethically?

Step 4: Act - Develop and carry out plan -evaluate your decision

Ask: Are we (am I) comfortable with this decision?

What are some examples of ethical issues we see in health care?

- Should we send a patient home if the care team thinks the patient's home is unsafe?
- Should we continue with or provide care that may cause harm?
- Should we put a feeding tube in a patient in the end stage of an illness at the request of the family?
- What should we do if a family member asks that we not tell a patient of their illness or how long they have to live?

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For help with Ethics or using the Framework please contact our MSH Ethicist at 903-472-7373 ext.6937 or email Ethics@MSH.on.ca and your email will be answered within one business day. For urgent matters, please call 437-771-1357.



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Ethics Help

We make decisions about what is right and wrong all the time in our daily lives and at work. Sometime, however, we are not so sure what the right or best course of action is. When this happens, you can call an Ethicist. This person is specially trained in health care to help guide you through making the best decision for you.



For Patients, Families, Staff, Physicians and Volunteers



MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL

A PROUD HERITAGE - AN EXTRAORDINARY FUTURE

What is ethics?

Ethics involves trying to figure out what the right choice is when we face a moral or ethical issue.

How do I know it is an ethical issue?

For example, when you:

- disagree with others about a care decision
- think about an issue or decision long after it is made
- wonder if you should consider your cultural, religious, professional or other beliefs
- Worry what is the right thing to do

How can ethics help?

We can help by:

- making the time and space to talk
- helping to be clear about what we know, what we are assuming, and what we need to find out
- figuring out who the stakeholders are and try to see things from their position
- listening to the views of those involved
- better understanding the values of those involved
- Using the IDEA Ethics Framework to weigh competing values/ interests

What values are important to Markham Stouffville Hospital?

The Hospital supports patient and family-centered care. Our values include treating patients, families and each other with Respect, Compassion, Courage, Trust, and Commitment.

What does patient and family centered care mean?

To us, patient and family centred care means

- we recognize patients and families as full partners in care
- we create a supportive and respectful environment for patients, families and providers to promote wellness and teamwork
- we foster a community of mutual respect
- we encourage supportive relationships to improve the well-being of patients, families, staff, physicians, volunteers and the community.

How do ethical issues come up?

Ethics come up every day in health care and everyone has a role to play in providing ethical health care.

There are ethical issues when values compete or when we are trying to decide the right course of action for others or ourselves.

What are values?

Values are those ideals that are important to us. Some common values in health care are:

- respect for a person, dignity
- making a decision about oneself
- honesty, trust, fairness
- doing good and avoiding harm
- privacy and keeping personal information confidential
- avoiding discrimination
- protecting vulnerable persons
- being free from outside pressures
- being ready to give an account of one's goals and the reasons for them

Who may ask for ethics help?

- Patients, a patient's family members or any staff member, physician or volunteer at Markham Stouffville Hospital