



# ETHICS and VALUES

Ethics and values play an important role in complex moral questions. People working in health care, the patients/clients, families and other stakeholders face these questions almost daily in the provision of quality care. The Lady Dunn Health Centre recognizes these differences of opinion among those who participate in clinical and organizations decisions from the bedside to the boardroom. To this end, a number of ethics activities and services have been introduced. What are some of the services?

## EDUCATION

The purpose of ethics education in the workplace is to raise sensitivity to ethical issues and to help caregivers develop the tools required to solve ethical problems as they arise. **Foundations Consultant on Values and Ethics** will provide services for the Lady Dunn Health Centre. Sessions may include:

- Communications Approaches
- General Staff Consultation
- Education

## CASE CONSULTATION & CASE REVIEW

**Case Consultation** is a process by which **Foundations** responds to requests for help to resolve ethical conflicts regarding clinical and organizational issues. **Foundations** is advisory. Patient/clients and their relatives, administrators, directors, health care professionals and other employees remain responsible for their own decision.

**Foundations** is primarily intended as a resource when you may feel that you have reached the limits of your own or the group member's personal or professional ability to address ethical questions.

**Case Review** may be appropriate when a decision has already been made and a review of the process and/or decision is requested. The more novel and difficult the ethical choice we face, the more we need to rely on discussion and dialogue with others about the dilemma. Only by careful exploration of the problem, aided by the insights and different perspectives of others, can we make good ethical choices in complex ethical situations.



## WHEN SHOULD I ASK FOR AN ETHICS CONSULTATION?

We all make ethical decisions every day without help. However, we might need to seek assistance if there is:

- Conflict.
- Uncertainty about whether an issue is an ethical one.
- An ethical dilemma, when there appears to be two or more “right things to do” and it is not clear which is the best way to proceed is.
- Moral or ethical distress.

## How can I Arrange an Ethics Consultation?

First, talk to your manager. If you are unable to resolve the problem or need further assistance, you may request an Ethic Consultation.

Contact the designated liaison: Coordinator Quality, Risk, Fundraising at extension 3219

- Your request will be treated with respect and confidentiality.
- You will be asked to describe the case/issue/situation to determine if an ethic consultation is an appropriate response.
- If a case consultation is appropriate, a time and place will be organized as soon as possible, according to the urgency of the situation.