

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Autonomy
(right to make one's own decisions)

Beneficence
(do good)

Non-Maleficence
(do no harm)

Justice
(be fair)

This tool was developed for the Bluewater Health Board of Directors by the Ethics Committee Members in collaboration with the Ethicist.

Ethics consults are available by request via your Board Chair or Committee Chair.

ethics@bluewaterhealth.ca

Accountability for Reasonableness

1 Rationales for priority-setting decisions must be publicly accessible (publicity condition).

Rationales must be considered by fair-minded people to be relevant to priority-setting in that context (relevance condition). **2**

3 There must be an avenue for appealing these decisions and their rationales (appeals condition).

There must be some means, either voluntary or regulatory, of ensuring that the first three conditions are met (enforcement condition). **4**



BLUEWATER
HEALTH

**ETHICAL
FRAMEWORK
POCKET TOOL**

- Governance -



SITUATION

Understand the Problem

Tell the Story

What exactly is the problem we have to solve?

Who needs to be involved in the decision-making?

Who has the authority to make the decision?



BACKGROUND

Set the Context

What values or principles are either engaged or are in conflict?

How do BWH Mission, Vision and Values fit?

Is there relevant law?

Is there relevant BWH policy/procedure?

Is there relevant professional ethical policy?

What is my personal context and/or bias?

Was the ethicists' assistance required?



ASSESSMENT

Consider the Options

Ask first – is doing nothing an option?

What are the Benefits or Strengths?

What are the Harms / Limitations / Consequences?

How does this align with values?

How does this align with relevant BWH Values/Principles/Policies and Legislation/Laws?



RECOMMENDATION

Develop an Action Plan

What is the decision?

Does the decision pass the TV test?

What is the implementation plan?

Who has to take action?

What is the communication plan?

How do we evaluate/revise the action plan if required?

ARE YOU FACING AN ISSUE WITH AN ETHICAL DIMENSION?

- Consensus cannot be reached within the interdisciplinary team or between the treatment team and the patient/family on goals of care.
- Team is facing a true ethical dilemma. Care options present an equal level of benefit and harm to patient/family making decision-making difficult.
- The team knows the most ethical course of action but this option cannot be pursued due to barriers either within the institution or barriers placed by patient and/or family.
- Patient/family has challenging expectations about care or exhibiting challenging behaviours.
- Pervasive feeling that something is wrong but the ethical dimensions are unclear.
- Not sure that the particular benefits of a course of treatment or level of care justifies the burden this will place on patient/family.
- Concerns that the values of organization or individual are not consistent with optimal patient care.
- Complete the Ethics Framework (SBAR) Worksheet on inside BWH and contact the manager.

This tool was developed for Bluewater Health employees and Professional Staff by the Ethics Committee members in collaboration with the Ethicist.

Ethics consults are available by request via:

ethics@bluewaterhealth.ca

For urgent access during business hours hospital leadership and physicians may contact Switchboard and they will access the Ethicist.

PRIORITY SETTING

1 Rationales for priority-setting decisions must be publicly accessible (publicity condition).

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- Employees and Professional Staff -



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