

ETHICS CONSULTATION SERVICE

AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

Your child's care is our top priority at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). As a parent or guardian, you may have questions or concerns about your child's care that involve your values or beliefs. Those kinds of concerns are called "ethical" concerns. If you have an ethical concern the Ethics Consultation Service (ECS) can help.

The Ethics Consultation Service is a **free** and **confidential** service for all **patients, families and staff members**. When teams and families have ethics questions or concerns, they may ask for an ethics consultation (or ethics consult) so they can talk with someone who understands medical ethics issues.

Learn more about the Ethics Consultation Service below.

What is an ethics concern?

Ethical concerns can come up when you or the healthcare team have concerns or questions about your child's care that involve your values or beliefs. Some examples of ethical concerns are:

- You and the care team have different ideas about the best thing to do for your child.
- You are not sure how much to tell your child about their illness.
- You are not sure which treatment plan is right for your child.
- Your child disagrees with you about their treatment plan.
- A treatment plan that the team recommends conflicts with your cultural or spiritual beliefs.
- You are worried about whether you or your child is being treated fairly.

What is NOT an ethics concern?

Sometimes people call the Ethics Consultation Service about topics that are not ethical concerns. Don't worry if

this happens — we will point you to a CHOP resource who can help you. Some examples of requests that the ECS **cannot** help with include:

- Legal advice
- Medical advice
- Mediation or help with general family disagreements
- General complaints

What does the ethics consultation process look like?

Our ethics consultants work to help families and the care team better understand each other's concerns and explore options that meet the **needs of your child**. The idea of participating in an ethics consultation may seem stressful to you. Our ethics consultants will be there to help you along the way. **Please know that your healthcare team will not be angry with you or hold it against you in any way if you ask for an ethics consult.**

What to expect during an ethics consultation

- One of our trained ethics consultants will talk with you by phone or in person about your ethics questions or concerns about your child's care.
- The ethics consultant may also talk with members of your child's care team (with your permission).
- The ethics consultant may make recommendations to you and the care team, but the final decisions about your child's care belong to you and the care team.
- The ethics consultant will keep you informed about next steps during the process.

What do I need to do to prepare for my meeting with an ethics consultant?

- The Ethics Consultation Service can provide tip sheets to help you and your family gather your thoughts before talking with an ethics consultant.
- The ethics consultant or a member of your care team can go through these materials with you.

How can I contact the Ethics Consultation Service?

The Ethics Consultation Service is available to any patient and family or CHOP staff member.

- Call 215-590-1000 and ask the hospital operator to contact the ethics consultant on call.
- Ask any member of your child's healthcare team to request an ethics consultation for you.

Other Important Information

You are a partner in your child's care. The final decisions about your child's care belong to you and the healthcare team. Once the ethics consult is completed, you and your care team will continue to partner to care for your child. Please know that the Ethics Consultation Service is available to you for follow-up as needed.

The ethics consultant will be sure to share the next steps with you. Please feel free to use the open area on the right to jot down notes to help remind you of any next steps after your meeting.

Name of ethics consultant(s):

Summary of meeting with ethics consultant:

