



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER-MURRIETA

OPERATING POLICY

CATEGORY:	CLINICAL MANAGEMENT	CODE:	M-M-138
SUBJECT:	CLINICAL ETHICS CONSULTATIONS	EFFECTIVE:	11/2021
		REPLACES:	03/2018
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Purpose: To define the role, scope, and mechanism of clinical ethics consultations.

1. A Clinical Ethics Consultation may provide assistance to healthcare professionals, patients, and families in the identification, analysis, and resolution of ethical dilemmas that arise in the care of individual patients.
2. Anyone involved in a patient's care may request an ethics consultation on that patient. This shall include any member of the patient care team, the patient him- or herself, a family member, friend, etc.
3. The scope of clinical ethics consultations shall include such issues as limitation of treatment, interpretation of advance directives, and surrogate decision-making. The issue may involve conflict about the patient's capacity to give consent, the appropriate goals of therapy, or the use or non-use of specific treatment modalities. In other situations, there may be no conflict; the requestor may seek input on the ethical permissibility of a proposed course of treatment.
4. Ethics consultations shall not be considered the appropriate means to resolve questions of clinical management, interpersonal conflict, or peer review. For such issues, other well established institutional or professional mechanisms may be used to assist with these matters.
5. The patient's attending physician shall always be notified that an ethics consultation has been requested, either by the person making the request, or by the ethics consultant.
6. There shall be no retaliation for requesting an ethics consultation. This is particularly relevant in a teaching institution where students, house staff, and other trainees might otherwise be reluctant to raise ethics questions. In unusual cases, the person requesting the consultation may remain anonymous.
7. Ethics consultations shall be provided in a timely manner by qualified clinicians who have been authorized to provide ethics consultation by the Ethics Committee.
 - 7.1 The ethics consultant shall record in the patient's medical record his/her analysis and recommendations.
8. The recommendations of the ethics consultant are advisory only; the clinicians caring for the patient are free to implement the suggestions or not.

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APPROVERS: Executive Committee, LLUMC-M Chief Executive Officer, LLUMC-M Chief Nursing Officer, LLUMC-M Hospital Executive Leadership, LLUMC-M Sr. VP/Administrator, MEC