
Ethical Issues and Ethics Committee AD.E20

POLICY:

Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care identifies ethical issues and has a defined process for handling these issues when they arise.

Definition:

Ethical issues may be identified when there is a conflict between two or more important values.

Examples of potential ethical issues include, but are not limited to:

- a. A patient's welfare vs. a patient's right to decide for or against treatment;
- b. The goal of prolonging life vs. the goal of maximizing the quality of life;
- c. A family member's preference to withhold information from the patient vs. the patient's right to know; and
- d. Withdrawal of life sustaining treatment vs. prolongation of life.

PROCEDURE:

1. Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care designates qualified individuals to serve on the Ethics Committee, a resource that provides an open forum for addressing ethical concerns.
2. The Ethics Committee meets quarterly to review issues of ethical concern, review policies and procedures related to the hospice's ethical practices, and to consider the educational needs of hospice employees, volunteers and the community related to ethical issues.
3. Any employee, volunteer, patient, family member or member of the community may identify concerns of an ethical nature and request consultation with the Ethics Committee.
4. The Ethics Committee may convene special meetings outside of its regular schedule to address ethical issues that warrant immediate attention.
5. Minutes are kept for each meeting of the Ethics Committee.
6. Hospice employees and volunteers are provided with information regarding the identification of ethical issues and procedures for contacting the Ethics Committee.
7. Patients and family members are provided with information regarding the existence of the Ethics Committee as a resource for discussing and, when possible, resolving ethical concerns.

Created:	Reviewed:	Revised:	Effective:
9/2018	11/2018		4/2019