

- All Departments

## I. POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

- A. The attending physician, any member of the healthcare team, the patient, the patient's surrogate, or family member may seek a consultation with the Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee at any time.
- B. Situations where such consultation may be helpful include, but are not limited to:
  1. Disagreement about life-sustaining treatment where there is lack of clarity regarding the patient's wishes;
  2. Issues relating to patient autonomy;
  3. The patient's wishes are unknown and no surrogate decision-maker is identified;
  4. Issues where the moral and/or legal status of any aspect of healthcare is questioned.
- C. **Recommendations resulting from an Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee consultation are advisory only.** The consultation is intended to enhance, and in no way replace the patient-family-physician relationships.

## II. POLICY:

The Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee assists in implementing the values and mission of St. Jude Medical Center, the philosophy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, and the ethical and religious directives for Catholic Health Facilities in practical, patient-centered ways. The Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee will function in an advisory capacity only and will focus on areas where medical technology and human values meet.

It is recommended that the Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee be consulted whenever a dilemma or dispute exists that may benefit from the advisory involvement of a multi-disciplinary group of healthcare providers and others with ethical expertise.

## III. PROCEDURE:

- A. Clinical Ethics Assistance may be accessed for consultation through the Nurse Manager of the patient's assigned unit.
- B. The Nurse Manager will contact the Patient Representative/Designee who will initiate the review process by representative members of the Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee.
- C. Results of any consultation will be documented and appropriate follow-up will be provided to all involved parties.
- D. Utilizing the Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) performance improvement methodology, the Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee will determine if performance improvement needs exist.
- E. The Quality Council and the Executive Ethics Liaison will provide administrative support and guidance to the Clinical Ethics Assistance Committee. Regular reports on the activities of the Committee and trends identified through review of the consultations and referrals made to the Committee will be provided to the Quality Council.

## IV. DOCUMENTATION:

- A. Progress Notes
- B. Ethics Consultation Summaries and Quarterly Reports.

## V. RELATED ITEMS (OTHER POLICIES, ATTACHMENTS):

- A. Advance Directives: Patient Self-determination in Medical Decision-Making
- B. Code of Business Conduct
- C. Decision to Withhold or Withdraw Life Sustaining Treatment
- D. Foregoing Artificially Supplied Nutrition or Hydration for Seriously Ill Patients
- E. Foregoing Treatment
- F. Organizational Ethics
- G. Overview of Patients Rights
- H. Patient Rights and Responsibilities
- I. Pediatric Patient Rights
- J. Plan for the Provision of Patient Care

### Referenced Documents

Reference Type	Title	Notes
<b>Documents which reference this document</b>		
Applicable Documents	Partial Code Patient, Identification Of	
Applicable Documents	Treatment Of Seriously Ill Newborns	

**Signed by** ( 03/08/2011 ) Louise Macaulay, Patient Representative  
( 03/08/2011 ) Mike Marino, Chief Medical Officer

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**Document Owner** Magnani, Janet

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