

Clarifying difficult decisions about:

- Life-Sustaining Treatment
- Ethical Aspects of Patient Care
- Decisions About The Use of Comfort Care
- Use of Resuscitative Measures
- Medical Care Disagreements
- "Living Wills" or Advance Health Care Directives
- Guidance Regarding Treatment



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A Place to Turn
When You Face
Difficult Choices



Who Is Part Of The Bioethics Committee?

The San Antonio Community Hospital Bioethics Committee is a group of multi-disciplinary professionals who are available to help clarify difficult decisions and to discuss the ethical aspects of patient care. The professional disciplines represented include:

- Administration
- Community Members
- Patient Relations
- Physicians
- Clinical Ethicist
- Nurses
- Pastoral Care
- Social Worker

What Is The Bioethics Committee?

Advanced medical technology sometimes creates complex choices, such as decisions about life-sustaining treatment. Situations can arise that present 'ethical' dilemmas for patients, families, and their caregivers. You or your family may wish to discuss the 'ethical' implications of pursuing certain recommended treatments, such as the use of a ventilator to support breathing or of hemodialysis in patients with kidney failure.

If you are unable to take part in your health care decisions, those involved in your care might find it difficult to make decisions on your behalf or may disagree over what decisions to make. In such situations, San Antonio Community Hospital Bioethics Committee is available to consult with you, your family, or your doctors.

The members of the Bioethics Committee provide education to physicians, hospital staff, patients, and their families to help them understand the scope and impact of medical ethics in today's society. Bioethics Committee members have training in medical ethics and practical experience in helping patients, families, and doctors in discussing ethical questions, medical choices, and weighing their options.

What Is An Ethics Consultation?

Consultations are meetings that include the patient, their family, physicians, members of the patient's hospital health care team, and the members of the Bioethics Committee. Their goal is to promote ethical reflection in an atmosphere that is supportive, and respectful of personal, cultural, and religious values of all those involved.

What Kind Of Problems Does The Consultation Team Help With?

The consultation team has helped patients, families, and doctors with decisions about the use of comfort care, the use of resuscitative measures, medical care disagreements, and about "living wills" or advance health care directives. The team will listen to the concerns, assist in gathering relevant information, and help to evaluate the ethical questions about treatment that may exist, provide guidance regarding treatment, and ethical choices

you or your family might confront. *The Bioethics Committee will not make decisions for you or dictate treatment.*

Who Can Ask For An Ethics Consultation?

You or anyone who is involved in your care. For example, you or a family member could request help, as can your doctors, nurse, or social worker. The Ethics Committee team strives to determine the best way to consult in each individual situation.

Is The Information About My Case Confidential?

Yes. The Bioethics Committee Team treats the facts of each patient's case with the strictest confidence. Everyone involved respects your right to privacy and confidentiality.

How Do I Request Help From The Bioethics Committee?

Patients and families can ask their doctor, nurse, social worker, or chaplain for help in being the process. You may also reach the hospital Clinical Ethicist, Dr. David Adams, at (909) 935-0976.