



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

ADMINISTRATIVE

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: BIOETHICAL ISSUES IN PATIENT CARE:
NURSING GUIDELINES

Policy No.: A150
Effective Date: 01/1991
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Policy Statement: There are Departmental resources available to address ethical concerns of the nursing staff. A nursing representation is a standing member of the Bioethics Resources Committee (BRC).

Purpose of Procedure: This policy defines the process for nursing staff members to address ethical issues in patient care through appropriate channels.

Physician's Order Required: No

Equipment Required: None

Procedural Steps:

1. Nursing staff members who identify a possible ethical issue or concern in patient care will submit a consult request with the BRC Chair or any of its members. The nursing staff member may also consult with appropriate nursing leadership staff for guidance. See attachment (1) for bioethics consult algorithm.
KEY POINT #1: The interdisciplinary team (IDT) or leadership staff will provide assistance to clarify the concern and identify applicable standard of practice.
2. The BRC will evaluate the possible ethical issue or concern and recommend a plan of action.
3. Once the BRC has recommended a plan of action, they will meet with the interprofessional members and patient and/or family members as needed to discuss the implementation of the action plan.
4. After the action plan has been implemented, the BRC debriefs with the interprofessional members to determine the resolution of the ethical issue or concern.
5. If a patient/family requests information or assistance with a bioethical issue or concern the nurse will refer the patient to his/her physician, patient advocate, social worker, and/or the BRC depending on the patient's preference, the nurse will contact the appropriate discipline. The consult request should be documented in the electronic health record.

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References:

CAMH Refreshed Core January 2007 PC 16.10; PC 16.60; EC 6.10
Milliken, A., (January 31, 2018). Ethical Awareness: What it is and why it matters. *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 23(1), DOI: 10.3912/OJIN.Vol23No01Man01

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09/05 – Revised
02/07 – Revised
06/10 – Revised
05/12 – Revised
09/14 – Revised
03/17 – Revised
04/18 – Revised
07/20 – Revised
11/21 – Revised

Attachment I

Bioethics Consult Algorithm

