

MEDICAL ETHICS

Ethics is available as a selective rotation to PGY-2 and PGY-3 residents for 2 or 4 weeks. While on this rotation, residents are required to attend and be active participants in all weekly ethics classes (see below) and to maintain their own continuity clinic (to be changed if it is on Wednesdays).

- During July and the first 2 weeks of August, classes meet daily.
- The remainder of the year, classes meet from 8:15 am -5pm on Wednesdays
- During the Winter quarter, residents will participate in teaching in the first year medical school class, Thursday mornings from 10:30-1pm.
- There is no selective during September, December and the last 2 weeks of August.

Residents will arrange a reading course with one of the faculty members listed below. In addition, they will participate as an active member of the ethics consultation team. On average, the Ethics Consult service receives 4-5 consults per month. The consults may entail a one-time meeting with the health care team or may require daily meetings at the convenience of the team and patient and family. Consults can come from health care providers who are providing care in the inpatient and outpatient settings. Families can also call ethics consults.

- Faculty who are available for reading courses: Lainie Ross, John Lantos, Jaideep Singh, Tracy Koogler, Bill Meadow, and Peter Smith.

Goals, Objectives and Resident Responsibilities of the Ethics Experience

Patient Care: Residents are expected to provide patient care that is compassionate, respectful, appropriate and effective for the promotion of health, prevention of illness and the treatment of disease, and at the end of life. In order to accomplish this, the residents will

- Gather accurate essential information from all sources, including the patient, the parents or guardians, and the health care team. When appropriate, the resident may be expected to interview other sources for information.
- Make informed recommendations about the ethical options that are based on clinical judgment and scientific evidence, and are respectful of patient and family preferences to the widest degree morally permissible
- Develop and negotiate effective patient management options

Medical Knowledge: Residents are expected to demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and social sciences in clinical ethics and the application of their knowledge to patient care. The resident will apply an open-minded analytical approach to acquiring new knowledge, access and critically evaluate current medical information and scientific evidence and apply this knowledge to clinical problem solving, clinical decision-making and critical thinking. Specifically the resident will

- Pursue directed readings that focus on the ethical issues involved in pediatric medicine and pediatric decision making

- Learn how to identify all of the ethical issues involved in pediatric medicine and pediatric decision making
- Become familiar with the laws and policies of the University of Chicago and the state of Illinois in order to help the consulting team understand the boundaries of pediatric decision making.
- Compare and contrast ethical solutions in adult medicine and pediatric medicine; and pediatric and adult decision making
- Be prepared to discuss the following topics as a result of ethics consultation experience, didactic sessions or readings:
 - parent-child-physician triadic relationship
 - the limits of parental autonomy
 - the growing role of the child's developing autonomy
 - the state's role as *parens patriae* (parents of its citizens)
 - clinical ethics
 - surrogate decision making
 - the utility and limits of advance directives
 - privacy and confidentiality versus the duty to warn

Practice-based Learning and Improvement: Residents are expected to be able to use scientific evidence and methods to investigate, evaluate, and improve patient care practices, and

- Identify areas for improvement and implement strategies to enhance knowledge, skills, attitudes and processes of care
- Analyze and evaluate practice experiences and implement strategies to continually improve the quality of patient practice
- Develop and maintain a willingness to learn from errors and use errors to improve the system or processes of care
- Use information technology or other available methodologies to access and manage information, support patient care decisions, and enhance both patient and physician education

Interpersonal and communication skills: Residents are expected to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that enable them to establish and maintain professional relationships with patients, families, and other members of health care teams and

- learn to provide effective and professional consultation to other physicians and health care professionals and sustain therapeutic and ethically sound professional relationships with patient, their families, and colleagues
- Use effective listening, nonverbal, questioning, and narrative skills to communicate with patients and families
- Interact with referring health care providers in a respectful and appropriate manner
- Maintain comprehensive, timely and legible medical records

Professionalism: Residents are expected to demonstrate behaviors that reflect a commitment to continuous professional development, ethical practice, an understanding and sensitivity to diversity and a responsible attitude toward their patients, their profession and society, and

- Demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity and beneficence in relationships with patients, families and colleagues
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to the gender, age culture, religions, sexual preference, socioeconomic status, beliefs, behaviors and disabilities of patients and professional colleagues
- Adhere to principles of confidentiality, scientific/academic integrity, and informed consent

Systems-Based Practice: Residents are expected to demonstrate both an understanding of the contexts and systems in which health care is provided, and the ability to apply this knowledge to improve and optimize health care, and

- Understand, access, and utilize the resources, providers, and systems necessary to provide optimal care.
- Understand the ethical, financial as well as clinical limitations and opportunities inherent in various practice types and delivery systems, and develop strategies to optimize care for the individual patient
- Balance evidence-based, cost-conscious strategies with patient and family preferences
- Collaborate with other members of the health care team to assist patients in dealing effectively with complex systems and to improve systematic processes of care.