Medical ethics is available as an elective rotation for residents as a 2- or 4-week educational experience working with the medical ethics team at the University of Chicago. Education is through intense involvement in attending ethics conferences, reading the pertinent literature, didactic experience, and assisting with consultations throughout the University of Chicago Medicine. Residents are supervised directly by various members of the medical ethics team, which is comprised of attending physicians and fellows among several academic divisions. In addition, residents are expected to do a weekly reading/discussion in the ethics of general pediatrics or any pediatric subspecialty with Dr. Lainie Ross or one of the other pediatric ethicists.

With the permission of the Pediatric Chief Residents and Program Director, a resident can elect to do the entire MacLean Ethics Center Fellowship as a PL3/4, if accepted into the program. This requires that the resident use a 4-week Independent Study followed by a 2- or 4-week Ethics Elective to participate in a 5 week summer intensive in July/early August and then attend weekly fellowship sessions on Wednesdays throughout the year. The Chief Residents will help to facilitate this by scheduling as many inpatient obligations as possible in blocks when the MacLean Center Fellowship is on break (mid-August-end of September, December, March, and June) and by scheduling continuity clinics on days other than Wednesday. Residents interested in this option should contact Dr. Ross and the Pediatric Chief Residents and Program Director as soon as possible.

**A. Patient Care:**

1. 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
2. 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
3. Develop and negotiate effective patient management options

**B. Medical Knowledge:**

1. Complete directed readings that focus on the ethical issues involved in pediatric medicine and pediatric medical decision making
2. Identify common ethical issues involved in pediatric medicine and pediatric medical decision making
3. Demonstrate understanding of 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 medical decision making
4. Compare and contrast ethical solutions in adult and pediatric medicine
5. Prepare and discuss the following topics as a result of ethics consultation experience, didactic sessions, or readings:
   a. parent-child-physician triadic relationship
   b. the limits of parental autonomy
   c. the growing role of the child’s developing autonomy
   d. the state’s role as parens patriae (parents of its citizens)
   e. clinical ethics
   f. surrogate decision making
   g. the utility and limits of advance directives
   h. privacy and confidentiality versus the duty to warn
   i. ethical issues in a particular pediatric subspecialty (e.g. children as stem cell donors for siblings)
C. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement:

1. Identify areas for improvement to enhance knowledge, skills, and attitudes about the ethics consult service
2. Analyze and evaluate practice experiences on the ethics service as they relate to other clinical services
3. Demonstrate a willingness to learn from errors and use errors to improve the system or processes of care
4. Use information technology or other available methodologies to access and manage information, support patient care decisions, and enhance both patient and physician education

D. Interpersonal and Communication Skills:

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

E. Professionalism:

1. Demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity and beneficence in relationships with patients, families, and colleagues
2. Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to the gender, age, culture, religion, sexual preference, socioeconomic status, beliefs, behaviors, and disabilities of patients and professional colleagues
3. Adhere to principles of confidentiality and scientific/academic integrity
4. Discuss the goals and limitations of the informed consent process

F. Systems-Based Practice:

1. Access and utilize the resources, providers, and systems necessary to provide optimal care
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical, financial, and clinical limitations and opportunities inherent in various practice types and delivery systems and develop strategies to optimize care for the individual patient
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the balance of evidence-based and cost-conscious strategies with patient and family preferences
4. Demonstrate a willingness and ability to 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
Pediatric Residency Program
Educational Goals and Objectives

Medical Ethics Elective
PL3/4 Rotation

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