

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

WHO WE ARE

The Ethics Committee is a standing committee of the Medical Staff and responsible to the Medical Board. Membership includes a designee from the University of Colorado Hospital executive offices and individuals from varied disciplines including:

- Physicians
- Social Workers
- Mental Health Professionals
- Nurses
- Clergy
- UCDHSC Center for Bioethics and Humanities representatives
- Attorneys
- Community Representatives

WHO WE SERVE

Our Ethics Committee serves the greater patient care community of University of Colorado Hospital. This includes the inpatient hospital services and the outpatient clinics.

- Patients
- Physicians
- Patients' families
- Nurses
- All members of the patient's care-giving team
- All University of Colorado Hospital staff members

WHAT WE DO

The Ethics Committee is engaged in

- Education
- Reviewing University of Colorado Hospital policies & procedures.
- Performance Improvement and Patient Safety activities
- Supporting the Ethics Consult Subcommittee

The Ethics Consult Subcommittee is a group from the Ethics Committee that serves as a consulting resource within the University of Colorado Hospital community.

Our Ethics Consultants offer an educated and objective presence to facilitate communication and clarify information in order to help patients, their families, physicians and other caregivers identify shared goals and make good decisions for patient care. We work to have all voices heard, first and foremost the voice of the patient.

There are times when ethics questions of a general nature arise from a specific case or situation. The Ethics Consult Subcommittee is available to facilitate a forum of interested parties to identify general concerns, help develop guidelines, and discuss policy-related issues.

HOW TO REQUEST AN ETHICS CONSULT

Contact Betsy Benjamin, at 720-848-4063. If an urgent ethics consultation is required during evening, weekend or holiday hours, call the hospital operator, 720-848-0000.

During weekday hours—8:00 to 4:30—an ethics consultant will contact you shortly after your initial request. After a review of the patient's chart and discussion with the requestor, it will be decided how to best address the issues presented. There may be a meeting with staff and ethics consultants, a meeting of ethics consultants with family, or staff and family, or a combination of options. We will follow-up regarding outcomes of the consult.

WHO CAN REQUEST AN ETHICS CONSULT

Any patient of University of Colorado Hospital or University Physicians can request an Ethics Consult. Any nurse, therapy provider, physician, or other caregiver can request an Ethics Consult.

- Patients
- Physicians
- Patients' families
- Nurses
- Any member of the patient's care-giving team
- Any University of Colorado Hospital staff member

If you have questions or comments about the University of Colorado Hospital Ethics Committee, please email Betsy Benjamin (Elizabeth.Benjamin@uch.edu) or call her at 720-848-4063.