

Legacy Health

Clinical Ethics Program

Making health care decisions can sometimes be hard. Some decisions are made more difficult when there are a variety of opinions, values and backgrounds to consider. Our program can help, working with patients, family members, doctors, nurses and hospital staff when health care decision-making becomes a challenge. Our ethics consultants are trained members of the health care staff and the community who help address ethical dilemmas that arise during the care of patients. Our program also develops and reviews ethics related Legacy policies, and provides ethics education.

Clinical ethics consultation service

The clinical ethics consultation service is a free resource to help with clinical decision-making and education about ethical issues. Legacy's clinical ethics consultants volunteer their time and skills.

There are many types of ethical issues that come up in the care of patients. Our team can help when there is uncertainty or disagreement. We promote dialogue and provide non-binding recommendations with dignity and respect, after an ethical analysis of the situation.

We can help

- Clarify who should make health care decisions when a patient is unable or they are unrepresented.
- Understand how health care decisions are made and how to weigh the issues.
- Explore patient preferences as well as legal, cultural and spiritual considerations in decision-making.
- Address disagreements in the care plan when there is uncertainty or conflict in values.
- Facilitate communication between patients, families, providers and others
- Promote respect for everyone's wishes, beliefs, and values.
- Educate about patient rights, informed consent and confidentiality.
- Understand advanced directives and portable orders of life-sustaining treatment (POLST).
- Address moral distress among health care staff.

Access to help

Anyone can ask for an ethics consultation by calling the numbers below. Ethics consultants are on call 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended coverage is available at some hospitals. Simply call the numbers below and ask for the ethics consultant on call. We aim to return the call within one business day.

- Emanuel Medical Center, pager: 503-938-0028 (Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m.)
- Good Samaritan Medical Center and Legacy Hospice Services, 503-413-7711
- Meridian Park Medical Center, 503-692-1212 (ask for nursing supervisor)
- Mount Hood Medical Center, 503-674-1122
- Randall Children's Hospital, 503-413-2200 (ask for Pediatric Ethics Service)
- Salmon Creek Medical Center, 360-487-1000
- Silverton Medical Center, 503-873-1500
- Unity Center for Behavioral Health, pager: 503-938-0028 (Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m.)

