



Labrador-Grenfell  
Health

## Nursing & Ethics


Solving the Dilemmas



### Ethics


- our basic values
- guideline to help us understand what we should and should not do.
- When values conflict while making a decision, we can face an ethical dilemma






# Questions

- Gut feeling (Something doesn't feel right about this!)
- Confidentiality
- Consensus among team and/or others that an open discussion is needed in this case
- Patient / resident / family member questions the ethics of care or options.
- If you are unsure you require an ethics consult, please review our **Clinical Ethics Screening Tool**, which will help you evaluate your need for the service.



# Ethics Screening Tool



## Clinical Ethics Screening Tool

This screen is intended to help you focus on issues that allow you to identify a case or situation appropriate to refer for an ethics consultation. This screen does not cover every issue and matter that could lead to an ethics consult but it would prompt most matters for a consultation.

**Values**  
Is there a plan or activity that clashes with something I hold as important?

- My personal values
- My professional ethics, professional values, or Code of Conduct and Professional Practice
- Our Organizational Values

**Decisions**  
Is there a clash, confusion, dispute or ambivalence about the decision making?

- Who should make the decision
- Competence
- Substitute decision-maker
- Best interest of patient / resident / client
- Information exchange
- Current wishes
- Advance Health Care Directive

**Care Plan**  
Is there confusion or dispute over the plan of care?



- Goal is unclear (Why are we doing this?)
- Status has changed and goal has not been appropriately revised
- Interventions seem futile
- Disproportion of risk and pain over benefit

**Other**

- Gut feeling (Something doesn't feel right about this!)
- Confidentiality
- Consensus among team and/or others that an open discussion is needed in this case
- Patient / resident / family member questions the ethics of care or options.

For further information, please contact:

**Patient Safety/Quality Department**  
Labrador-Grenfell Health  
P.O. Box 7000, Station C, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL, A1P 1C0  
Phone 709-696-3163, Fax 709-696-4012

## CNA Ethics

1. Providing safe, compassionate, competent and ethical care
2. Promoting health and well-being
3. Promoting and respecting informed decision-making
4. Preserving dignity
5. Maintaining **privacy** and **confidentiality**
6. Promoting **justice**
7. Being accountable



## LG Health Ethics

- Regional Ethics Committee
- Provincial Ethics Organization (PHENNL)
- Ethics Consult request
- Pamphlet [see handout](#)



## Ethics Consultation Service

- For **anyone** who needs help in making ethical decisions about health care.
- The reviews are conducted by ethics consultation facilitators
- A final report, including recommendations, will be provided
- **Request for an Ethics Consultation** Form and send it to the Ethics Manager.



## Request for Ethics Consult



Provincial Health Ethics Network Newfoundland Labrador  
Ethics Consultation Service

*Request for an Ethics Consultation*

This form is used to collect information from the individual or group requesting the Ethics Consultation and others with information needed to respond to the request for an ethics consultation. This form may be completed by the one requesting the consultation or the one who receives the request may collect the information. The required information can be forward in an e-mail.

Individual Requesting Consult	
Name	
Position	
Telephone Number	
Pager Number	
E-mail	
Date	
Details of the Specific Issue for Ethical Consultation	
Location RHA/ Site / Portfolio / Unit	
Program / Department	
Description (add another page if needed)	
<b>Forward the completed form to Labrador-Grenfell Health:</b>	<b>Labrador-Grenfell Health forwards to:</b>
Patient Safety/Quality Dept. Labrador-Grenfell Health P.O. Box 7000, Station "C" Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL A0P 1C0 Phone: (709) 896-3103, Fax: (709) 896-4032	Office of the Director of PHEENL Pastoral Care and Ethics Department Health Sciences Centre 300 Prince Phillip Drive St. John's, NL, A1B 3W6 Phone: (709) 777-8940, Fax: (709) 777-7612



# Where are these Tools?

The screenshot displays the Labrador-Grenfell Health website. The main content area is titled "Patient Safety & Quality: Ethics Services". The text on the page explains that there are times when making healthcare decisions is difficult and provides a guideline to help understand what to do. It also states that the Ethics Service at Labrador-Grenfell Health offers a comprehensive ethics service, including ethics education, organizational policy review, and ethics consultations. The page mentions that Labrador-Grenfell Health is a member of the Provincial Health Ethics Network Newfoundland and Labrador (PHENNL) and coordinates and supports ethics education, ethics consultations, and the review and development of policies for the four Regional Health Authorities and the Department of Health and Community Services. Through PHENNL, professional ethicists and facilitators are available to provide ethics consultations for Labrador-Grenfell Health.

An orange arrow points to the "Patient Safety & Quality" link in the left-hand navigation menu. The menu includes sections for "Main Menu", "Employment", "Library Catalogue", "Research & Innovation", "Applications", "Employment Pages", "Employee Pages", "Links", "News", and "Learning".

Labrador-Grenfell Health logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.