Collaborative Governance

MGH Ethics Resources

Ethics In Clinical Practice Committee

• Collaborative Governance is a multidisciplinary committee whose mission is to influence, communicate, and educate on the ethical issues that impact our practice.
  – Serves as a resource to the MGH community around advanced care planning (ACP) through education, consultation, and coordination of ACP activities
  – Identifies and addresses ethical issues and conflicts faced by clinicians in Patient Care Services
  – Provides consultation to the organization regarding policies, procedures and programs with ethical implications
  – Expands the impact of EICP through collaboration with other Collaborative Governance Committees, links with the organizational initiatives, and professional conference participation

Excellence Every Day Portal

• The MGH Ethics in Clinical Practice webpage

• How to find it:
  – Use Partners intranet
  – Do a quick Google search

• What you can find:
  – Health Care Proxies in multiple languages
  – Professional Codes of Ethics
  – Policies that describe best practices in providing ethically appropriate care to our patients

Partners Office of the General Counsel

• Serve as consultants to MGH employees regarding legal matters related to ethical care.
  – Advance Directives
    – Answer any legal questions about executing an advance directive including questions about whether an out-of-state advance directive is valid.
    – Provide counsel to a team when a health care agent wants to reverse a patient’s advance directive without a compelling reason.
  – Life Sustaining Treatment
    – Assist with resolving intractable conflict related to life sustaining treatment issues in collaboration with the Optimum Care Committee.
    – Provide counsel to a physician considering protecting a patient who is imminently dying from CPR’s potential harms by not offering CPR and entering the appropriate orders.

Palliative Care Services

• Provides care for people who have a serious and/or chronic illness. The care focuses on improving quality of life/body, mind and spirit. It can include friends and loved ones.

• Palliative care providers
  – facilitate discussions about what is important to patients and their loved ones
  – encourage patients to listen to their feelings
  – help patients determine their goals of care

• Palliative care can help
  – reduce pain
  – treat side effects
  – guide treatment decisions
  – facilitate communication between patients, their loved ones, and members of the health care team

Pediatric Bioethics Committee

• Consults
  – Patient consults on pediatric patient cases and issues that affect pediatric patients, families, and clinicians.

• Education
  – Monthly meetings provide the opportunity for review of previous consultations and discussion of updated and topical ethical literature and news.

Unit/Service Based Ethics Rounds

Edwin H. Cassem
Optimum Care Committee

• The Optimum Care Interdisciplinary Committee is an MGH resource for clinicians, patients and families to help work through ethical issues regarding the care of adult patients at MGH, especially during times of conflict at end of life. Patients, families or clinicians can place an OCC consult by paging the “Ethics Support” 85097.

• Examples of consults:
  – A patient is approaching end of life, and the family does not seem to understand this. Usual measures of trying to assist the family have failed.
  – A patient has had a procedure, and does not seem to be recovering. As a clinician, you believe that all signs point to end of life. Others on the team do not agree with you/others. Usual measures of team discussion are not working.

• If clinicians want to talk about a situation but are not sure if a consult is appropriate, page or email one of the OCC consultants to talk it through. Do not hold back in a state of moral distress or in confronting an ethical dilemma. Reach out to an ethics resource for assistance and support!!