

## During an ethics consultation, what information might help in making an informed decision?

To make good decisions, you will need relevant information.

- What is the name of the condition?
- What is expected to happen with this condition and how long will it last?
- What are the treatments for the condition?
- What treatment does the doctor recommend in this case and why?
- What are the side effects of the treatment?
- How else might the treatment affect a person's life?
- Are there other available treatments?
- What are the side effects of those other treatments?
- What might happen if the condition is not treated?
- What has been important to the patient in his/her life?

## How do I get in touch with the Ethics Committee?

The Ethics Committee may be contacted at any time by calling the Switchboard Operator at any Kaleida Health site and asking to speak with a member of the Ethics Committee.

Buffalo General Medical Center	(716) 859-5600
DeGraff Memorial Hospital	(716) 694-4500
Gates Vascular Institute	(716) 748-2000
HighPointe on Michigan	(716) 748-3100
Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital	(716) 568-3600
Visiting Nursing Association of WNY, Inc.	(716) 630-8000
Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo	(716) 878-7000

Language assistance services are available free of charge for anyone who has a need for an interpreter.

Tenemos servicios de ayuda en Español, para cualquiera que necesita un intérprete.

Ethics consultations are provided by Kaleida Health at no cost to the patient.



## When health care choices are difficult, we can help

ETHICS COMMITTEE

## What is an Ethics Committee?

The Kaleida Health Ethics Committee is a group of people who are prepared to listen and respond to patients, families and staff who are facing difficult health care choices.



## When might the Ethics Committee need to be contacted?

The Ethics Committee's consultation team can help when there are difficult decisions to be made or when there are disagreements about a patient's care. Some examples might be:

- Use of a feeding tube
- Use of a breathing tube
- Decisions to continue treatment
- Decisions to discontinue treatment
- How to make health care decisions when the patient cannot

## Who is on the ethics consultation team?

The ethics consultation team may include:

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Clergy
- Social workers
- Members from the community

All the team members have experience in helping patients, families and health care providers think about and talk about health care ethics questions.

## What does the ethics consultation team do?

The ethics consultation team helps everyone involved to consider all the facts about the patient and consider different courses of action. The team's role is **advisory only**. The final decision about a health-related issue lies with the patient (or the patient's legal representative) and the doctor involved.

## Who can ask for an ethics consultation?

Any of the following may request an ethics consultation:

- The patient
- The patient's family members
- A health care provider
- A member of the clergy
- Any concerned person involved with the patient

## Is the consultation information confidential?

**Yes.** The ethics consultation team treats the facts of each patient's case with the strictest confidence. Everyone involved respects the patient's right to privacy and confidentiality.

