



ETHICS AND ACCREDITATION

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Prepared March 2019

Decision Making

To help with an ethical decision, the WRHA's [guides for patient care and administrative issues](#) are available on the [WRHA Ethics Services web page](#).

There are various versions available for download, sharing and printing, and a [video](#) that walks you through how to use them.

These guides can help you resolve a conflict, ensuring that all the most important ethical factors have been discussed and considered.



For more information on any of the points in this document, please contact us.

Preparing for Accreditation

High quality organizations need an ethics infrastructure. An ethics infrastructure is a toolkit that includes the people, tools, resources and strategies available to support the delivery of high quality, ethical care. These things are in place, but people don't always know how to access them. This resource will provide some guidance on how you can assemble your own ethics toolkit, and where to get help if there are gaps.

Your ethics toolkit

An ethics toolkit can include many different kinds of resources, such as:

- People who have taken ethics-specific education, workshops and inservices
- Ethics committees and clinical ethics consultation services (where available)
- [Decision making tools](#)
- Websites ([WRHA Ethics Services](#))
- Books and journals ([WRHA Virtual Library](#)), videos (Check out Crash Course Philosophy on YouTube) and blogs ([Case of the Month](#))
- Anything else that can provide support, insight or recommendations when you are facing a tough choice.

While these are not all required, it is important to know what you do have and where you need to build up your toolkit.

Other tools like a patient bill of rights, policies and procedures, laws and codes of ethics, and organizational mission, vision and values statements can provide important guidance. Consider what you have in place, and what you need to strengthen or identify in order to ensure the people in your area have ethics support.

The Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Accreditation [page](#) also has a number of important resources, including the standards and Required Organizational Practices that will be audited during the site visit.

Standards

An important resource for ethical decision making is standards. Standards [Accreditation standards](#) are the blueprints that set benchmarks for excellence. Accreditation Canada emphasizes ethics in its standards because it is concerned with ensuring that health care organizations and their staff pay deliberate attention to doing the right thing and making principled ethical decisions every day. To meet the accreditation standards that are directly related to ethics, evaluate what you have in your toolkit to help you make decisions.

- What is the process to identify, manage and address ethics-related issues? How do you access it?
- What decision making tools do you have?
- Do you have an ethics consultant or committee to help navigate the more challenging situations?
- Who has taken ethics workshops or programs?
- What accreditation standards do you need help to meet?

What do you need?

To support the delivery of high quality, safe, ethical care is delivered in your area, think about the kinds of things that keep you awake at night. Have a discussion with the people working in your area.

- What does “ethics” look like for you? Talk about the tough decisions you face.
- How do you and your staff and your patients or clients manage conflicts?
- What resources do you have? What strategies do you use? What tools do you have access to?
- Do you have an ethics committee or clinical ethics consultation service?
- What education or training do you need?
- Do you know how to find and use an ethical decision making tool?
- Create a package of tools to support patients and staff on issues in your area; such as end of life care, feeding tubes, harm reduction, etc.

The WRHA Ethics Services [web page](#) has a number of resources and tools for navigating ethical decisions. To start, we encourage you to watch our [13-minute video](#) on Ethics and Accreditation. We are also available to help with:

- Specific dilemmas and cases
- Event debriefing
- Moral distress support
- Tailored ethics education

Let us know how we can help you build your ethics toolkit!

WRHA ETHICS SERVICES

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<http://www.wrha.mb.ca/about/ethics/index.php>



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