

“In a time of new medical discoveries, rapid technological developments, and social change, what is new can either be an opportunity for genuine advance in human culture, or it can lead to policies and actions that are contrary to the true dignity and vocation of the human person.

In consultation with medical professionals, church leaders review these developments, judge them according to the principles of right reason and the ultimate standard of revealed truth, and offer authoritative teaching and guidance about the moral and pastoral responsibilities entailed by the Christian faith.”

taken from

*Ethical and Religious Directives
for Catholic Health Care Services,
General Introduction.*

Mission

Faithful to the spirit of the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, St. Nicholas Hospital is dedicated to suffering humanity for His sake.

Vision

We will bring Christ’s healing presence to all who come to us by providing family-centered, compassionate care without regard for race, creed, or ability to pay.

Values

Our core values of respect, care, competence, and joy, will be lived by all who work here and felt by all who use our services.

Ethics Committee Consultations



St. Nicholas Hospital

3100 Superior Avenue ♦ Sheboygan, WI 53081
An Affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System
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St. Nicholas Hospital

Ethics Committee Consultation

St. Nicholas Hospital's Ethics Case Consultation Committee meets to clarify ethics issues regarding patient care. A consultation provides education and recommendations on medical ethics concerns.

Who May Request

A consultation with the Hospital's Ethics Case Consultation Committee may be requested by patients, families, authorized representatives of the patients, physicians and Hospital employees.

The Process

To obtain a consultation with the Hospital's Ethics Case Consultation Committee, contact a member of the Hospital's healthcare team. He or she will give the referral to an Ethics Committee member or a Hospital Supervisor.

Medical ethics issues are then either clarified or resolved:

1) by discussion with pertinent parties involved and/or

- 2) by convening an Ethics Case Consultation Committee Meeting for review of the case:
- a) within 24-48 hours for emergency cases and/or
 - b) at the next regular meeting of the Ethics Committee which meets four times per year.

Feedback is given to the requestor following all case reviews.

Ethics Consultation Participants

Ethics Case Consultation Committee membership may vary, but depending upon the issue and their availability, will consist of a multi-disciplinary team including some or all of the following:

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Chaplains
- Care Managers
- Other hospital staff
- Administration
- Attorneys
- Other community members

The patient and/or patient's family may be invited to present information.

Ethics Committee Recommendation

The Ethics Case Consultation Committee members make *recommendations only*. Involved parties may accept or reject the recommendation. There is no obligation on the part of any involved parties to accept or act on the recommendation.

St. Nicholas Hospital's Religious Affiliation

As a Catholic healthcare facility, St. Nicholas Hospital upholds the inherent dignity and rights of the human person, regardless of the person's health problem or social status. St. Nicholas Hospital may refuse to provide or permit medical procedures that are judged contrary to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

The recommendations of the Ethics Case Consultation Committee are based upon the current Catholic teachings and beliefs.