

Ethics Consultation Patient Information

MISSION

Health. Healing. Hope.

The mission of GBMC is to provide medical care and service of the highest quality to each patient leading to health, healing and hope.

VISION

Medical sophistication with personalized service.

The vision of GBMC is to be the preferred medical center in Maryland for the best physicians, nurses and staff by providing medical sophistication with personalized service, enhanced by clinical education and research with the guiding principle that “the patient always comes first.”

GREATER VALUES

The values of GBMC are our GREATER Values of Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Teamwork, Ethical Behavior and Results.

GBMC

6701 NORTH CHARLES STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21204



FOR INFORMATION

443-849-2370

www.gbmc.org

GBMC HealthCare includes Greater Baltimore Medical Center,
GBMC Health Partners, Gilchrist and the GBMC Foundation.

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Program Overview

GBMC respects patient and family dignity and self-determination. We acknowledge your right to participate fully in decisions that affect your medical treatment. We respect your wishes and seek to understand and follow them as best as we can. With many decisions to be made, you and your physicians are faced with difficult choices. For example, when is it time to cease efforts that seek to prolong life when cure is no longer possible and suffering seems too great? In general, decisions are made through conversations with the patient, family, physicians and other caregivers. When the patient's wishes are unknown, these decisions become harder. In this situation, decisions must be based on what the patients are believed to have wanted for themselves, and what is medically reasonable and recommended.

Ethics consultation is a service to facilitate discussion between patient, family, physicians, nurses or other involved persons faced with deep concerns or conflicts over patient care decisions. The ethics consultation is meant to help you or your family in making difficult choices. The committee provides guidance and offers recommendations and suggestions to resolve issues regarding care, but ultimately it will be you, your family and your physician who will make the final decisions.

Frequently Asked Questions

When should the Ethics Committee be contacted?

Most issues and dilemmas resolve over time in discussions with all the parties concerned. However, in the occasional case where there are lingering difficulties and conflicts, or rarely when there is an emergency, then the ethics committee may be contacted.

Do I need to prepare for a consultation?

Formal preparation for an Ethics Committee consultation is not necessary. It would be helpful however, to consider how you would answer the following questions:

- Does the patient have a written Advance Directive (a living will or durable power of attorney)?
- Has the patient appointed a health care agent?
- Has a guardian been appointed for the patient?
- Are the patient's wishes known? If not, what do you think would be in the patient's best interest?
- What are the family's concerns?

Who is on the committee?

The committee consists of representatives from various clinical and administrative departments of the hospital, as well as members of the surrounding community. Nurses, physicians, a social worker, the chaplain, an attorney, an administrator, a layperson and a clergyperson from the community are currently members of the committee. The committee has been trained in ethical decision-making and has many years of experience in dealing with such challenges and questions.

How do I request a consultation?

You and your family member or any member of the healthcare team may request an ethics consultation by calling 443-849-2370. You may also ask any member of your healthcare team to initiate the consultation process on your behalf.