LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER SHREVEPORT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Purpose:

To define the functions of the Ethics Committee.

Policy:

1. MISSION

The Mission of the LSUHSC institutional Ethics Committee is to facilitate quality patient care and family/staff communication by providing a forum for ethics education, consultation, support and policy formation/review. The committee promotes a systematic approach to ethical decision-making that is consistent with the mission, philosophy, and ethical code of behavior at LSUHSC.

2. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Ethics Committee shall include (but not be limited to) the following:

a. Serve as an advisory body to the professional staff and administration when formulating, monitoring compliance with, and revising policies and/or guidelines related to ethical issues in health care.

b. Serve as a resource for the medical, nursing, and allied health staff, and patients and/or families, in dealing with ethical questions related to treatment. Case review will be conducted offering recommendations as appropriate. A Committee member will be available on a 24-hour basis for individual staff consultation. Persons desiring to contact a committee representative should call the hospital switchboard. The switchboard will page the on-call committee member.

c. Provide a forum for the interdisciplinary discussion of ethical and moral questions and concerns.

d. Monitor legislation and relevant legal proceedings in an effort to determine the ethical consequences of legal developments in the field of bioethics.
e. Review and discuss the bioethics literature for the purpose of self-education and to assist in the development of educational programs.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the LSUHSC Ethics Committee shall consist of representatives of at least the following:

a. Medical Staff – 2 members (one of which shall serve as Chairman and one of which shall be a member of the Department of Psychiatry.)
b. Hospital Administration
c. Pastoral Care
d. Social Services
e. Legal Counsel
f. Nursing
g. Lay Members of the Community
h. Investigational Review Board Committee Member
i. Patient Representative
j. Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Shreveport Ethics Committee Member

4. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

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Administrator

_____5/18/04___________
Date

Clinical Board Approved: 2/15/98, 5/18/04
Written: 10/94
Removed: 12/00
Reinstated: 4/04
Revised: 6/95, 2/98, 3/04
Reviewed: 2/98, 3/04