Clinical Ethical Issues

Purpose:

To provide a mechanism for assistance to patient care providers, patients or family members/care providers in circumstances where an ethical question or concern is raised in regard to clinical care or decision making.

1. General Guidelines

An ethical question or concern relates to specific moral issues to be addressed by an individual or an organization in relation to another. Generally, an ethical issue is identified whenever a provider or recipient of a service questions the moral quality of a course of action or perceives a conflict of interest or values between the involved parties. Issues that are legal in nature shall always be referred to LSU-HSC legal counsel for direction.

2. Procedure

a. Any employee of LSUHSC may request assistance in dealing with an ethical question or concern; during normal business hours the request shall be made directly to the administrator on call. After hours and weekends the Administrative House Manager shall be contacted.

b. Patients, family members/care givers may request assistance with ethical concerns or questions by contacting the Patient Relations Department at 675-5531 or the Administrative House Manager.

c. The Medical Director of Clinical Affairs shall appoint an “on-call” representative to investigate and respond to any ethical questions or concerns; the on-call individual may be reached by contacting the hospital switchboard.

d. In complex cases, the Medical Director may appoint a committee to discuss the specific situation, make recommendations or provide assistance to the patient care provider or family. Committee make up shall be determined by the nature of the case being addressed; the following departments may be included as needed:

   1) Medical Staff –
   2) Hospital Administration
   3) Pastoral Care
4) Social Services
5) Legal Counsel
6) Nursing
7) Investigational Review Board Committee Member
8) Patient Representative

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Administrator

4/20/11
Date

Clinical Board Approved: 2/15/98, 5/18/04, 6/19/07, 4/19/11
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