

Guidelines for Resolving Ethical Issues in Patient Care

Ethical conflicts arise when patient, families or health care providers believe:

1. A patient's wishes regarding care are not being honored.
2. Family tries to override patients expressed wishes
3. Patient lacks information needed to make informed consent.
4. Patient and families are being given inaccurate information.
5. Medically futile treatment is requested.
6. Patient lack decision making capacity and no known surrogate available.

Identify ethical issues and attempt to resolve them by discussions with involved parties closest to the actual problem. See Ready Reference Grid for issues and supporting policies

