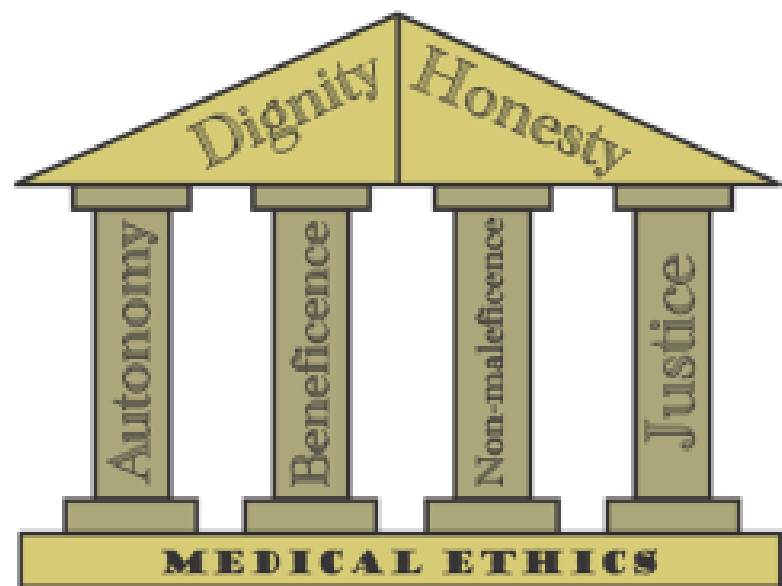


Legal Conference

Medical Ethics



- Medical Ethics provides principles and rules for what constitutes good medical care
- Autonomy = the right to choose
- Beneficence = doing good for patients
- Non-maleficence = avoiding harming patients
- Justice = equality in medical care

Respect

- This respect for patient decisions does not require that the medical teams agree with or support all patient choices.

me on my way to make bad decisions



What An Ethics Consultation Does:

Promotes healthcare practices consistent with high ethical standards

Helps to foster consensus and foster an atmosphere of respect

Honors participants' authority and values their perspectives and thoughts in a decision-making process

Educates participants to handle current and future ethical concerns

What Ethics DOES NOT Do:

- Ethics is not there to give a conclusion and tell physicians and nursing how to do their jobs (no “policing”)
- Ethics is not like other consulting services that give objective concrete recommendations to every case that are standardized as thus ethics lives in the grey (it is not black and white)
- Ethics is not legal counsel nor gives legal or liability advice
- Ethics does not tell patients the rules of the hospital or discipline patients (can help mediate these conversations with teams and patients/families)
- Ethics does not conduct goals of care conversations unless there is a critical ethical component at which ethics can be involved
- Ethics does not find the surrogate decision maker but can be involved in cases where the surrogate decision maker involves an ethical component (seek SW help initially)
- Ethics does not follow families, patients or staff for “support” unless there is a specific moral distress situation

The Goal of an Ethics Consult:

- the preferred approach to achieve consensus:
 - Attends to the emotional and human components of ethical conflicts
 - Surrogate/Patient fully endorses
 - Operationally feasible
 - Safely and effectively delivered

