



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

System Department

Supersedes: UNMCP- RI14

Section: Ethics, Rights & Responsibilities

Subject: Office of Healthcare Ethics

Number: RI 14

Attachments:

Date Effective: 08/01/01

3/4/24, 4/10/06, 2/19/09, 6/14/11, 4/16/13,

Date Reviewed: 5/11/15, 02/17/17, 02/23/2021

Office of Healthcare Ethics

It is the policy of Nebraska Medicine (Nebraska Medical Center, Bellevue Medical Center, and UNMCP) to comply with the procedures set forth below. Nebraska Medicine will establish an Office of Healthcare Ethics with the purpose, goals, composition, and specific duties, activities, and standards as described below.

Purpose: This Office of Healthcare Ethics is charged with improving the quality of health care through the identification, analysis, and resolution of ethical questions or concerns.

Goals: The Office of Healthcare Ethics aims to:

- identify and analyze ethics conflicts and issues, and their origins, contextual features, values and principles;
- facilitate resolution of ethical conflicts through managing the Ethics Consultation Service, in a respectful atmosphere with attention to the interests, rights, and responsibilities of all those involved;
- develop standards, processes, and metrics related to all ethics-related activities in the organization;
- promote clinical and organizational practices consistent with ethical norms and standards;
- inform institutional efforts at policy development, quality improvement, and the appropriate utilization of resources by identifying ethical concerns, responses, and alternatives; and
- assist individuals and the institution in handling current and future ethical problems by providing education, peer support, research, and policy development in healthcare ethics.

Composition: The Office of Healthcare Ethics is composed of:

1. a Director of Ethics, who may contribute as needed to ethics consultations;
2. clinical ethicist(s), who comprise the primary consultation team, and are expected to have a formal training, degree, or certification in clinical bioethics;
3. associate ethicist(s), who comprise a (volunteer) associate consultation team, are expected to have at least some formal or advanced education or training related to clinical ethics, bioethics, or related field; and
4. support staff as identified by the Director.

The Director of Healthcare Ethics reports to the Chief Medical Officer, and will regularly communicate the Office’s activities and outcomes to the Ethics Advisory Committee.

Institutional, community and regional ethics-related educational initiatives are coordinated by the Office, and include regularly scheduled Clinical Ethics Grand Rounds and an annual Ethics Retreat with the Ethics Advisory Committee.

Staff Accountability:

Ethics Advisory Committee 02/2021

Chief Medical Officer 02/2021

Department Approval

Signed | s |: Jacob Dahlke, MS-Bioethics, HCEC-C

Title: Director

Department: Office of Healthcare Ethics

Administrative Approval

Signed | s |: Harris Frankel, MD

Title: Chief Medical Officer