

Clinical Ethics Elective

Goals and Objectives

This clinical rotation is coordinated through the UMMC Office of Ethics. It is available for a month or two week rotation. Contact Scot Bateman MD (scot.bateman@umassmemorial.org) for information or Monick Powell (monick.powell@umassmed.edu) for help with scheduling this rotation.

The fellow/resident/student:

1. Patient Care

- a. Demonstrates proficiency in assessing the ability to identify the ethical question related to the request for ethics consultation.
- b. Consistently performs thorough, accurate and directed data gathering related to the background of the ethical question.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in formulating an ethically principled approach to ethical dilemmas.
- d. Is able to appropriately, non-judgmentally, and compassionately engage in all stakeholder involved with an ethical question.
- e. Demonstrates competency in the communication skills and mediation of ethical meetings.
- f. Provides organized write-ups including comprehensive assessment and ethically principled plan.

2. Medical Knowledge

- a. Understands the barriers to effective ethical decisions and fosters an appreciation of multiple points of view.
- b. Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the principles approach to ethical questions/conflicts including autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, and veracity.
- c. Understands the major ethical theories underpinning these principles including deontological, utilitarian, virtues, feminist, narrative theories.
- d. Demonstrates understanding of the application of basic ethical approaches to futility, surrogate medical decision making, consent, biases, and moral distress.

3. Interpersonal & Communication Skills

- a. Demonstrates ability to communicate effectively with patients, families, fellow residents, nurses, ancillary staff and other team members to provide patient focused care.
- b. Demonstrates ability to coordinate multiple consultants involved in the care of patient or care team that has requested an ethics consult.
- c. Delivers concise, effective and relevant presentations to our ethics team.
- d. Demonstrates ability to effectively communicate ethical decision making to all stakeholders and provide appropriate follow up.
- e. Understands how to provide comprehensive supportive and educational care to patients and families, with sensitivity to family, cultural, ethnic and community issues, and how it relates to the patient's condition and plan for care.

4. Professionalism

- a. Demonstrates ability to recognize and evaluate the psychosocial needs of acutely ill patients, their families, and distressed staff.
- b. Demonstrates respect, sensitivity and skill in dealing with death and dying with the patient, the family and other healthcare professionals.
- c. Is able to recognize the limits of one's knowledge, skills, and tolerance for stress level; able to ask for help when needed.

5. Practice-Based Learning

- a. Demonstrates ability to independently access, critically appraise and utilize available medical information and scientific evidence to answer specific patient based management questions and apply these to the individual patient.
- b. Demonstrates ability to analyze and interpret journal articles relevant to individualized patient care when appropriate.
- c. Facilitates learning for fellow learners and for one's own medical education and enrichment.

6. Systems-based Practice

- a. Demonstrates awareness of the needs for effective ethical care and its impact on the family and healthcare system.
- b. Demonstrates a basic understanding of medical errors, patient safety and quality improvement.