



## Introduction to the Ethics Committee Workshop

June 2018



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## Objectives

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to

- Describe the structure, roles, and functions of ethics committees
- Identify common challenges that ethics committees encounter in their work
- Describe at least three types of supports for the work of ethics committees
- Identify how ethics tools might be applied to cases



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## Agenda

9:30 – Introduction	11:00 – Case 1
9:45 – Ethics committee structure, function, and roles	11:30 – Case 2
10:30 – Break	11:50 – Case 3
10:45 – Tools and supports	12:15 – Wrap-up



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## Who's Here?

### Introduction

- Name
- Professional background/training
- Current role/responsibility

### Icebreaker

- Favourite Canadian city and why
- OR
- The path not taken (a different direction you could have chosen but didn't)

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## Polling

- To: 37607 (no charges beyond usual text messaging rates)
- Content: NSHEN10

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## Online Participants

- New addition; still learning
- How to contribute
  - Chat
  - Polls
- Feedback welcome



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What comes to mind when you hear "ethics"?

Scan the presentation to see the content. Still no live content? Install the app or get help at PHSA.com/help

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### What is Ethics About?

- How we treat each other
  - Directly
  - Indirectly
  - Individually
  - Collectively
- Values that determine how we treat each other
- Closing gaps between "ought" and "is"

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### Values - NSHA

- Respect
- Integrity
- Courage
- Innovation
- Accountability



nova scotia health authority

Need a Family Practice?

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### Ethics Committees: A Brief History

- Transplant committees
- Dialysis committees
- Therapeutic abortion committees
- End of life cases
- Shifts
  - Values
  - Roles
  - Structure

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### What are common ideas about what an ethics committee does?

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### What Should an Ethics Committee Do?

- Meet accreditation requirements?
- Build capacity?
- Make decisions?
- Provide support?
- Act as last resort?
- Resolve disputes?

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### Ethics Committee Membership

- Roles
- Requirements
- Representation
- Renewal



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### A "Typical" Ethics Committee Meeting

1. Minutes - May 10, 2018	4. Consultations
2. Business Arising	4.1 Use of BIPAP in ICU
2.1 Membership	4.2 Parking fees
2.1.1 Recruitment strategy	5. New Business
3. Regular Updates	5.1 Publicity strategy
3.1 Ethics Education	6. Policy/Document Review
3.1.1 Zone Ethics Day planning	6.1 Consultation process
3.1.2 Annual education plan – review	6.2 Complementary therapies policy
3.1.3 National Health Ethics Week evaluation	7. Case Discussion
3.2 Local Ethics Teams	8. Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2018
3.3 NSHEN	

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### What is the benefit of having an ethics committee?



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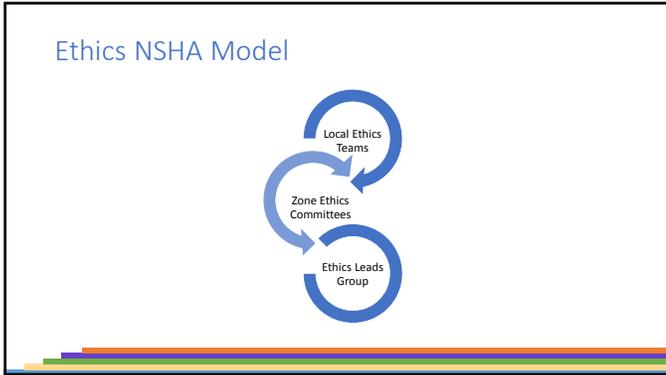
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- ### Zone Ethics Committee
- Support Local Ethics Teams (if applicable) in providing consultation services OR respond to consultation requests
  - Identify and respond to ethics education needs in the zone
  - Provide feedback from the zone on provincial policies

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What do you find most challenging about ethics work?

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### What Makes Ethics Work Hard?

- Uncertainty
- Emotion
- Hard choices
- No "good" options



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### Challenges for Ethics Committees

- Comfort with ethics content
- Comfort with role and responsibility
- Inevitability of disagreement
- Recruitment and retention
- Publicity

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### What would you identify as the biggest challenge for your ethics committee?

- Comfort with ethical theory and precedents
- Comfort with the role and responsibility
- Addressing inevitable disagreement
- Recruitment and retention
- Publicity
- Other (will discuss)

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## Tools and Supports

- Process
  - Frameworks
  - Checklists
- Education
- Ethics rounds
- Consultation
- Culture



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## Ethics Tools

- Ethics NSHA
  - Framework
  - Tool
- NSHEN
  - Targeted Decision Frameworks
    - Health priority setting
    - Disclosure of adverse events
    - Health partnering
    - Ethics, evidence, and economics framework
  - Tools
    - Template for review of policies
    - Discussion support – duties to provide care and to provide a safe work environment

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## Stimuli for Ethics Conversations

- NSHEN – Fireside Chats
- NSHEN – Bioethics Book Club
- NSHEN – Ethics After Hours
- AMA - Journal of Ethics
- Hastings Center Report – In Practice



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### Looking Ahead

- Consultation
- Organizational ethics
- Policy review
- Policy development

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### Case – Retrospective Review

- The ethics committee has been asked to review a situation where the patient, Anya, was admitted through the ED from a long term care facility. She was diagnosed with pneumonia. Anya's son, Shawn, accompanied her and participated in making decisions about not to pursue active treatment, opting for palliation instead.
- Just before Anya died, another child, Trevor, came forward and said that they had been appointed Anya's delegate in her personal directive. Trevor asserted that Anya would have chosen to pursue all possible curative measures before accepting palliative care.
- The team was unsure how to handle the situation, and Anya died a few hours after Trevor arrived. They are still experiencing distress resulting from this case and are seeking feedback from the ethics committee.

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### Case: Education Event

- There have been several cases recently where teams have identified communication at handover as contributing to confusion around, for example, goals of care and decision making processes.
- The ethics committee has decided to address this in an education event.
- How will you structure the education event to effectively meet the needs of front line health care providers?

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### Case: Policy

- The ethics committee has been asked to support the development of a new policy around social media use in the workplace.
- How might the ethics committee most effectively provide support?

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