

## Ethics NSHA FAQs

### **What are the components in the Ethics NSHA model?**

Ethics NSHA consist of three functional components:

- Zone Ethics Committees
- Local Ethics Teams
- The NSHA Ethics Leads Group

### **What do the Zone Ethics Committees do?**

The Zone Ethics Committees connect with the zone's Local Ethics Teams, and facilitate and coordinate clinical ethics consultations, and respond to ethics education needs throughout the zone. The Zone Ethics Committees also provide input to the Ethics Leads Group regarding the review and revision of health policies and the performance of authority-wide organizational ethics consultations. In addition, they provide feedback to NSHA's Executive on education needs and broad ethics themes and trends that emerge from ethics consultations within the zones.

In Central Zone, ethics support is provided by Central Zone Ethics Support (CZES). CZES is made up of Ethics Education, Clinical Ethics Consultation, and Organizational and Policy Ethics. Together these three components fulfill the same functions as Zone Ethics Committees and Local Ethics Teams in the other three zones.

### **What are the Local Ethics Teams responsible for?**

The Local Ethics Teams respond to immediate needs for ethics support, and provide directions on where to find additional ethics services when needed. The Local Ethics Teams provide clinical ethics consultations and are also responsible for identifying and communicating local ethics education needs to their Zone Ethics Committee.

### **What types of policy reviews does the Ethics Leads Group do?**

The Ethics Leads Group provides ethics-related feedback to requestors on newly-developed and revised health policies. The Ethics Leads Group also contributes directly to the operations and activities of health policy development working groups.

### **Where can I find the public website for ethics support?**

The Ethics NSHA public website has information about ethics support at:

<http://www.nshealth.ca/service-details/Ethics%20NSHA>

Information targeted at NSHA employees, physicians, and volunteers about how to request ethics support is also available for the time being at: <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/requesting-ethics-support>

### **Where can I find the request forms for different types of ethics support?**

To find the ethics request forms go to the NSHA Ethics support website:

<http://www.nshealth.ca/service-details/Ethics%20NSHA>

Under '**More about this service**' click '**Request Forms**', then click on the link to the type of ethics request you wish to submit.

The ethics request forms are also available here:

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/requesting-ethics-support>

Simply click on the link for the type of ethics consultation/support you are looking for.

If you need help filling out these forms, contact the zone Ethics NSHA administrator identified on the form.

### **Are ethics requests confidential?**

Ethics requests are as confidential as you would like them to be. The requester's needs and interests will guide the level of confidentiality and any disclosure of information is discussed with the requester up-front. Any reporting on themes and trends arising from ethics consultations will be done at a high level with no identifying details.

### **What is NSHEN and what type of ethics support does it provide?**

NSHEN is the Nova Scotia Health Ethics Network. It is a formal collaboration that was established to provide ethics support in the health care sector throughout Nova Scotia. It uses a capacity-building model to provide this support. NSHA is a collaborating partner in NSHEN. All components of Ethics NSHA are supported by NSHEN. . Other collaborating partners in NSHEN include Dalhousie University (the Department of Bioethics), the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, and the IWK Health Centre. The responsibility for ensuring that appropriate ethics support is provided throughout the province-wide authority lies with NSHA.