

Hello!

We hope that you are keen to further build your confidence as a member of a clinical ethics consultation team; we've assembled some resources that you might find helpful.

Attached is a Readers' Theatre exercise that is designed to spur conversation about what is and is not effective in the consultation as well as to give participants a more direct sense of what it is like to participate in a consultation meeting. We've also included a one page summary of the ethics consultation process. For those in NSHA, keep an eye on <https://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/ethics-support/index> for the Ethics NSHA ethics consultation process and the forms to accompany it.

Here are some other resources:

**Books:**

(These are all available from the NSHEN lending library - <http://www.nshen.ca/index.php/nshen-book-library/nshen-library-reserve-a-book/>)

- Ethics by Committee: A Textbook on Consultation, Organization, and Education for Hospital Ethics Committees. (2008) D. Micah Hester, ed.
- Complex Ethics Consultations: Cases That Haunt Us. (2008) Paul J. Ford and Denise M. Dudzinski, eds.
- Guidance for Healthcare Ethics Committees. (2012) D. Micah Hester and Toby Schonfeld, eds.
- Ethics Consultation: From Theory to Practice. (2003) Mark P. Auliso, Robert M. Arnold, and Stuart J. Youngner, eds.
- Health Care Ethics Committees: The Next Generation. (1993) Judith Wilson Ross, et al., eds.
- A Practical Guide to Developing and Sustaining a Clinical Ethics Consultation Service. (2015) Courtenay R. Bruce, et al., eds.
- Ethics in Clinical Practice, 2nd ed. (2005) Judith C. Ahronheim, Jonathan D. Moreno, and Connie Zuckerman, eds.
- Handbook for Health Care Ethics Committees, 2nd ed. (2015) Linda Farber Post and Jeffrey Blustein.
- Core Competencies for Healthcare Ethics Consultation, 2nd ed. (2011) American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.

**Videos:**

(Note: these are from the Loyola US, and there are some relevant differences in how consultation is approached there)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LoyolaBioethics/search?query=consultation>

**Journals:**

(NSHEN has subscriptions to these journals and can provide copies of articles of interest)

Journal of Clinical Ethics - <http://www.clinicalethics.com/>

Hastings Center Report (especially the In Practice section) - <https://www.thehastingscenter.org/publications-resources/hastings-center-report/>

## **Ethics in Nova Scotia: An Overview**

### **NSHEN:**

- Collaboration between NSHA, the DHW, the IWK, and Dalhousie to build ethics capacity and ensure ethics support is available throughout Nova Scotia
- Responsible to collaborating partners
- Each collaborating partner provides representatives for the NSHEN Advisory Council
- The Advisory Council provides direction regarding NSHEN's work, particularly for educational activities and resource development.
- Targeted, specific support (for example, consultation assistance) can be accessed by any of the collaborating partners by contacting their representative on the Advisory Council or by contacting the NSHEN administrator. This includes:
  - ❖ NSHA
    - Ethics NSHA (additional support, particularly in Central Zone, provided by the Dalhousie Ethics Collaborations Team)
      - Zone Ethics Committees
      - Local Ethics Teams
      - Ethics Leads Group
  - ❖ Department of Health and Wellness
    - Development of an Ethics Working Group [currently paused]
    - Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres
      - Ethics Decision Support Working Group
  - ❖ IWK (has additional ethics support from the Dalhousie Ethics Collaborations Team)
    - Ethics Committee
    - Clinical Ethics Consultation Committee

### **Ethics NSHA:**

- Formal structure within NSHA to ensure that ethics needs and accreditation requirements are met for NSHA; consists of the Zone Ethics Committees, Local Ethics Teams and Ethics Leads Group (see descriptions below)
- Responsible to the NSHA VP Quality and System Performance
- Coordinates and provides clinical and organizational ethics consultations
- Provides ethics input into policy development and review
- Provides ethics education (by request and offered sessions)
- Provides guidance for ethics activities in the form of processes, procedures, and forms
- Supports available in each zone include funding for ethics-related activities (e.g., travel for ethics consultations, education sessions), as approved by the appropriate Zone Ethics Committee, and an administrative support person
- The Ethics Leads Group, and Ethics NSHA as a whole, is also supported by the Ethics Resource Coordinator (Lisbeth Witthoff Nielsen)

- ❖ Ethics Leads Group
  - Comprised of representatives from each Zone Ethics Committee and Central Zone Ethics Support as well as the members of the Dalhousie Bioethics Collaborations Team
  - Develops and updates ethics-related processes and forms
  - Develops and maintains the Ethics NSHA website
  - Develops materials to assist Zone Ethics Committees and Local Ethics Teams in publicizing the Ethics NSHA structure
  - Coordinates policy review
  - Coordinates assistance for policy development
  - Coordinates organizational ethics consultation
  - Supports Zone Ethics Committees and Local Ethics Teams as needed
- ❖ Zone Ethics Committees
  - Comprised of representatives from across the zone, reflecting diverse professions and experiences
  - Provides zone perspectives to work of Ethics Leads Group
  - Engages in policy review process
  - Provides zone perspective for organizational ethics consultations
  - Coordinates clinical ethics consultations, as appropriate, in coordination with the Local Ethics Teams
  - Supports Local Ethics Teams as needed
  - Coordinates zone-wide ethics education events (Ethics Days, etc.)
  - Coordinates evaluation of zone ethics activities
  - Identifies ethics themes, trends, and emerging issues in the zone and brings these forward to the Ethics Leads Group
  - Identifies needs for provincial education
- ❖ Local Ethics Teams
  - Comprised of individuals from a local area or a single facility
  - Provides clinical ethics consultation services
  - Reports to the Zone Ethics Committee
  - Identifies ethics themes, trends and emerging issues and brings these forward to the Zone Ethics Committee
  - Identifies needs for ethics education and skill development (in order to provide clinical ethics consultation and more broadly based on themes that arise in consultations)