



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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### Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at [ethics@providence.org](mailto:ethics@providence.org) with any questions.

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Proposed title of paper: Preparing Clinical Ethics Committees to Address Pandemic-Related Consultation Challenges

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Clinical Ethics Committees are unprepared to address ethical issues anticipated in a moderate to severe influenza pandemic. Even a mild pandemic such as 2009 H1N1 can challenge normal clinical and organizational ethics consultative capacity.

A serious population health threat necessitates expansion of customary patient advocacy strategies and the ethical principles on which they are based to include greater attention to the principles of justice (fair access to limited resources and fair distribution of benefits and burdens across the population as a whole) and non-maleficence (identification and mitigation of avoidable harms).

How should a CEC re-conceive its responsibilities under such circumstances? What preparations can CECs make in advance? What kinds of issues should it prepare to address?

The issues CECs are likely to face include: rationing of scarce resources, such as antivirals, vaccines, and ventilators; triaging critically ill patients to ICUs; expanded access to palliative care resources; changes in the authoritative status of patients' and surrogates' treatment choices or of advance directives; and suspension of organ donation/transplantation and other potentially life-saving services.

This paper will

(1) identify the kinds of issues CECs will need to confront during a lengthy public health emergency;

(2) characterize the consultation skills needed;

(3) recommend strategies for preparing CECs for their consultative role in a moderate to severe influenza pandemic.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

No publication is currently planned on this exact topic.

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes     No