



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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[www.ethics2010.org](http://www.ethics2010.org)



### 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: Ethics Committees' decision making – is there an ideal model?

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

In 1996 Israel enacted the Patients' Rights law. One of the novelties presented in the Law is the establishment of Ethics committees. The original idea of the institutional ethics committees is considered as merely an ethical advisory body on everything connected to ethical issues occurring in the medical context. The law however defines the committees' composition and the exact scenarios for it to assemble. In these defined cases the committee is granted decisive authority similar to that of a court of law.

Today, 13 years later, most of the hospital's ethical committees are not functioning.

This phenomenon is both puzzling and disturbing. These committees were given exclusive power to make decisions in certain circumstances related to routine medical care. The lack of the committees' activity testifies to the fact that in reality the decisions are made by the medical staff itself. This conclusion is worrying, as most of the issues under the committees' jurisdiction deals with the very core of patients' rights (e.g. the right to receive medical information or the right to refuse treatment).

This paper will present the unique structure of Israeli committees and will discuss the reasons why medical teams bypass the ethics committees. In addition it will explore the alternatives for the modus operandi of ethics committees: a. Binding decision making authority (as under Israel's patients law). b. Advising capacity. c. Non directive consulting.

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

I intend to publish on this topic.

I am writing my Ph.D on this topic.

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

Yes     No