



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at ethics@providence.org with any questions.

Name: John Holmes

Title/Degree: PhD

Institution: PeaceHealth Oregon

Country: USA

Email: jholmes2@peacehealth.org

Phone including country code (<http://www.countrycallingcodes.com>): 541-852-2898

Proposed title of paper: Engaging Ethics in Palliative Care Cases

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

I offer an analysis of the relationship between palliative care services and ethics consultation services with the purpose of (1) clarifying when to engage ethics consultation services after palliative care services have already begun, (2) clarifying the added value of such ethics consultation services, and (3) exploring a unique value conflict ethics consultation team members may face. I assume, along with Ausilio et al (2004), that most ethics consultation teams in U.S. hospitals employ an ethics facilitation model which conceptually does not include ethics consultation services as part of a patient's default care team. This assumption coupled with the recent rise in palliative care teams throughout U.S. hospitals means that patients who end up receiving palliative care and ethics consultation services will likely become involved with a palliative care team prior to meeting with an ethics consult team member. Yet, this order of involvement begs the question about when ethics consultation services ought to be engaged in palliative care situations. I offer a theoretical overview of the main palliative care pathways a patient nearing end of life can take. I also review the ethics facilitation model of ethics consultation services, and suggest various places along each palliative care pathway where ethics consultation services could be helpful to the patient/surrogate, the palliative care team, or the physician. I end by discussing and offering guidance to ethics consultants when they are faced with the dilemma of whether to continue employing an ethics facilitation model or to play a more engaged role as a patient advocate.

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

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

Yes No