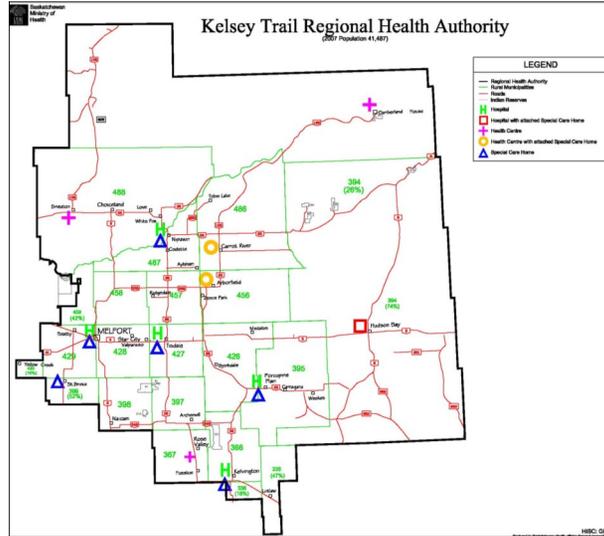


What does the Ethics Committee do?

1. Review regional policies, procedures and processes as they pertain to ethical issues;
2. Provide guidance and leadership to the development of the region's ethical policies;
3. Promote ethical decision-making;
4. Promote regular learning opportunities for physicians, staff and volunteers regarding ethical information;
5. Provide a discussion forum for difficult issues related to differing values;
6. Where possible, provide opportunities to enable the region's stakeholders, clients and families to enhance their understanding of ethical issues.

To contact the Ethics Committee call the KTHR Regional Office at 306-873-6600. Leave your name and phone number and a Committee member will contact you.



KTHR Ethics Committee is a committee of the **KELSEY TRAIL HEALTH REGION**

For more information about this or other services of the Kelse Trail Health Region contact the Regional Office at 306-873-6600 or visit our website www.kelsetrailhealth.ca



Provincial Health Line—24 hour health advice

KTHR Quality of Care Coordinator
1-877-573-6601



Health Care Ethics



Healthy People in Healthy Communities

What is health ethics?

Ethics involve reflecting on our personal values and making decisions based on our values. Health ethics, or Bioethics, help us to decide what is the right or moral thing to do when difficult health care decisions must be made.

The health care team includes patients, families, staff and physicians. Health care teams may face difficult choices while an individual is in their care.

Dealing with difficult ethical decisions

Clinical decisions in health care often have some ethical aspects to them because they involve choices about what should be done. Patients/clients receiving care, their families and health care professionals may need to make difficult decisions about treatment that may involve religious beliefs, professional guidelines and more principles.

Health care ethics can provide an opportunity for the care team to participate in a thoughtful exploration of how to act well and make good choices based on beliefs and values about life, health, suffering and death.

Thinking ethically helps us consider the values, beliefs, technical and medical expertise of everyone relevant to the situation. Each person contributes to creating the most appropriate decision.

The Ethics Committee provides a process to assist with decision-making, allowing health care teams to consider personal and professional values while reflecting on what would be best for the patient.

What are some common ethical questions?

Ethical questions arise when the right thing to do is not clear or when members of the health care team disagree about what is best for the patient. For example,

- ◇ When should life-support treatments such as ventilators or feeding tubes be started or withdrawn?
- ◇ What should family members and health professionals do when there is a disagreement about treatment for the person receiving care?
- ◇ Should a patient “at-risk” be allowed to go home?
- ◇ How will you make the right choice for a family member who is no longer able to make decisions about their own care?

What should I do when I am faced with an ethical decision?

Clients who are facing tough ethical decisions should contact their physician, health care provider, or the Quality of Care Coordinator first. If you are still unable to resolve the situation on your own, you may wish to contact the Ethics Committee.

Members of the Ethics Committee are available to discuss your needs and may offer education and guidance, referrals, facilitation of discussions or consultation with a health ethicist. The Ethics Committee does not make decisions for others but will support those facing difficult choices by helping them to explore all options.

Who can make a request to talk to the Ethics Committee?

Anyone directly involved in a situation that raises ethical questions may make a request to contact the Ethics Committee.

Assistance with ethical problems may be Requested by any member of the healthcare team, including patients and their families. When formal consultations are required, the attending physician will always be notified.