

Justify ranking by appealing to principles as set out in the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada Health Ethics Guide. – i.e., **principle of totality** (a holistic perspective of the human person and or the institution), **principle of double effect** (cannot intentionally desire to cause harm in order to do good), **principle that the benefits must be equal to or greater than burden/harm**, **principle of legitimate cooperation**, (cannot intend to cooperate with immoral acts), **principle of subsidiarity**, (decisions should be taken as close to the grass roots as possible), **principle of informed choice**, **principle of confidentiality**.

Evaluate the consequences in terms of principles. What alternatives are excluded?

ACT

8. Articulate the Decision

Which alternative best reflects the ranking of values? Which alternative best balances more of the values? Have any other alternatives come to light?

9. Implement the Plan

How should the decision be communicated? Who needs to know it? How best to document the process? Who needs to act?

10. Concluding Review

What are the feelings of those involved?



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**CENTRE FOR CLINICAL ETHICS AT
ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL**

A Principle Based Framework for Ethical Decision Making: YODA*



To acknowledge the needs of the communities we serve, St. Michael's Hospital reiterates our longstanding commitment to affirm and protect the right to sensitive, secure, respectful health care for all patients. It is the mission, values, and tradition of St. Michael's to serve the sick and the poor. All those associated with the hospital are committed to providing compassionate care in a welcoming environment, embracing all races, cultures, abilities, classes, beliefs, ages, genders and sexual orientations.

The Hospital operates in full compliance with governing legislation. To this end, policies, procedures and practices with clear accountabilities are implemented and continuously updated to affirm and protect the right to health care and treatment which is inclusive, secure, sensitive and respectful to all.

If you are facing a difficult ethical decision and are unsure of the best course of action, we may be able to assist. Any patient, family member, staff member, volunteer, or student can contact, in confidence, the Centre for Clinical Ethics 24/7 at 416-530-6750 and after hours through the on-call pager at 416-664-1153.

The Centre for Clinical Ethics provides consultative services on a wide range of ethical issues across the life-span. Frequently encountered issues include value conflicts around decisions such as withholding or withdrawing treatment, consent and capacity, resource allocation, and organizational ethics.

A PRINCIPLE BASED FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL DECISION MAKING: YODA*

**Adapted from Catholic Health Alliance of Canada*

The following principle based framework for ethical decision making is grounded in the Mission, Vision and Values of St. Michael's Hospital.

Steps for Resolving Ethical Dilemmas:

YOU OBSERVE

1. Identify the Problem

Name the problem clearly. Where is the conflict?

2. Acknowledge Feelings

What are the "gut" reactions, biases, loyalties?

3. Gather the Facts

What are the ethically relevant facts? Whose account of the facts count? Have all the relevant perspectives been obtained? **What do the institution's policies or guidelines say? What does the relevant law say? ****

**Legal information is not the same as legal advice, where legal advice is the application of law to an individual's specific circumstances. We recommend that you consult a lawyer if you want professional legal advice in a subject area that is appropriate to your particular situation.

a. Facts in Biomedical Ethics include:

- Diagnosis/Prognosis
- Patient/Substitute Decision Maker Wishes
- Contextual Features –e.g.
 - Religion/Belief Systems
 - Culture
 - Psycho-social issues
 - Relationships
 - Quality of Life

b. Facts in Business/Organizational Ethics include:

- Governance
- Partnerships
- Allocation/Rationing of Scarce Resources
- Conscientious Objection
- Employer/Employee Relationships
- Conflict of Interest
- Alternative Sources of Revenue
- Abuse of Care Providers
- Whistle blowing

DELIBERATE

4. What are the Goals of Care?

5. Consider Alternatives

What are the alternative courses of action?
What are the likely consequences?

6. Examine Values

What are the preferences of the person receiving care? Are other values relevant? Which of the values conflict?

7. Evaluate Alternatives

Identify appropriate decision makers.

Rank all relevant values i.e., Values of St. Michael's Hospital: **human dignity, compassion, pride of achievement, community of service, and social responsibility**. These values are derived from and relate to the values as set out in the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada's Health Ethics Guide: **dignity of every human being and the interconnectedness of every human being. They also ground the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence/non-maleficence and justice.**