Homestead Hospital
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

POLICY NO.: HH-100-7940-1320

☑ Administrative
☐ Departmental

SUBMITTED BY:	Rev. Sergio L. Lopes, MA, BCC	**APPROVED BY:**	Rev. Robert W. Jakoby, M.Div., BCC
Title:	Director - Pastoral Care HH HH Team Representative - Clinical Ethics Committee	**Title:**	Corporate Director-Pastoral Care
		Responsible Department	Pastoral Care
			EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
APPROVED BY:	Janice E. Milligan, MD	**APPROVED BY:**	CLINICAL PRACTICE COUNCIL
Title:	Chair, HH Clinical Ethics Committee	**Title:**	Evidence-based Practice & Research / Clinical Practice Councils
APPROVED BY:	Gail Gordon, MSN, RN, NEA-BC	**APPROVED BY:**	Steven Fletcher, MD President, Medical Staff
Title:	Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer	**Title:**	

Creation Date:	02/02, 04/93
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Revision Date:	01/94, 11/98, 01/02, 10/02, 01/03, 03/06, 06/09, 09/11

POLICY TITLE:
Ethical Issues and Ethics Consultation Requests

SUMMARY & PURPOSE:
To provide a structured mechanism to address any situation that raises an ethical question and facilitate the response to issues raised by patients, families, staff, or physicians. To outline the steps to be taken by an individual requesting an Ethics Consultation by members of the Homestead Hospital Clinical Ethics Committee.

POLICY:
Decisions regarding medical care have become increasingly difficult and complex due to technological, societal, and legal changes as well as each individual's right to self-determination

in his/her own health care. At times, certain patient situations may present ethical, spiritual, legal, and/or social issues which create conflict and a course of action must be determined.

The Homestead Hospital Clinical Ethics Committee is chaired by a hospital physician appointed by the President of the Homestead Hospital Medical Staff. Homestead Hospital Clinical Ethics Committee is a sub-committee of the Baptist Health Bioethics committee. It serves as a resource to provide a non-judgmental forum for the resolution of ethical conflicts as it relates to patient rights. The ethics consultation process, through the forum, helps patients; their family members and hospital personnel address and respond to ethical issues that arise in patient care. Ethics consultants are members of the hospitals' Clinical Ethics Committees and may include: physicians, nurses, social workers/care managers, and chaplains.

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:
This policy pertains to all staff members who are involved in the provision of service to any patient in the hospital setting.

PROCEDURES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE:
1. The Committee may appoint one or more consultants that will provide on-call services.
2. Requests for an ethics consultation may come from any individual who is concerned about an ethical issue regarding a patient's care. The request can be done by contacting the primary on-call ethics consultant through the Homestead Hospital Operator.
3. The primary on-call ethics consultant will notify the Homestead Hospital physician chairperson, Bioethics Coordinator and/or Director, and other members of the on-call Ethics Consultant Team.
4. The on-call Ethics consultant will contact the requestor within twenty-four hours to screen, gather facts, and determine the ethical nature of the case.
5. If the nature of the case does not require a formal ethics consult, the on-call consultant will notify the requestor of the decision and suggest alternative recommendations if necessary.
6. If an ethical issue exists, the Ethics Chairperson and Bioethics Director will be notified, as well as other appropriate team members (including trainees) of the request for a formal ethics consultation.
7. If the attending physician is not the person requesting the consult, he/she is notified of the consultation. If the attending physician objects to the consultation, the chair of the Clinical Ethics Committee is contacted to discuss the case with the attending physician.
8. The Ethics Consultation Team will follow the consultation process for completing the ethics consultation.
    a. Recommendations of the Ethics Consultation Team will be documented in the progress notes of the patient's medical record.
    b. The Ethics Consultation Team will not make patient care decisions.
9. Ethics Consultations will be presented at subsequent Clinical Ethics Committee meetings.
10. The Committee Plan is attached with Preamble, Reporting, Scope, Purpose, Functions, Meetings and Membership.
11. The Committee may appoint one or more consultants that will provide on-call services. They will determine whether or not there has been an Interdisciplinary review and a family conference. The Ethics Consultation Team will meet if there appears to be an ethical issue. Their meetings should include the patient if possible, the family, the physician, and involved staff. Records will be kept. Charting will reflect resolution.

SUPPORTING/REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION:
- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Ethics Consultation Guidelines

RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND ASSOCIATED FORMS:

- BHM Administrative Policy: 007.06 Patient Rights and Responsibilities – Bioethics and Patient Rights
- HH Administrative Policy: 400-5200-700 Patient Rights - Performance Improvement

ENFORCEMENT & SANCTIONS:

Violations of this policy will be reported to the appropriate management personnel for any applicable sanctions.