

For Additional Information

For more information about the consultation service, families and patients should speak with their physician or nurse. If you are a healthcare provider, please contact the Ethics Consultation Service by calling the Albany Med operator at 518-262-3111* and ask for the on-call Ethics Consultant.

Ethics Consultants

- John Balint, MD, FRCP
- Wayne Shelton, PhD, MSW
- Sheila Otto, BSN, MA
- Wally Edge, MD
- Dan Thompson, MD

For more information about Alden March Bioethics Institute please call 518-262-6082* or visit <http://www.amc.edu/bioethics>

**When calling from within the hospital, dial the last five digits only.*

Alden March Bioethics Institute
Albany Medical College
47 New Scotland Ave, MC 153
Albany, NY 12208
Tel: 518-262-6082
Fax: 518-262-6856
www.amc.edu/bioethics



ALDEN MARCH BIOETHICS INSTITUTE

ETHICS CONSULTATION SERVICE

A resource for:

- Patients
- Families
- Physicians
- Staff



Albany Medical College

The Ethical Challenge of Modern Healthcare

The past few years have brought unprecedented growth in medical technology. Each day brings new treatment options to patients, families, and healthcare providers. As a result, patients, families, and care providers face more decisions—especially more *ethical* decisions—than ever before. Instead of asking “what can be done?” they often find themselves asking “what *should* be done?” These questions can arise at any time, under any circumstances. For some, it might be as a loved one enters the final stages of a terminal disease or as a patient considers the appropriateness of a major medical intervention. For others, it might be as they complete a Healthcare Proxy or Living Will.



The Ethics Consultation Service

To assist patients, families and care providers in making these complex decisions, Albany Medical Center offers a free Ethics Consultation Service. By helping people resolve the ethical dilemmas that modern medicine can present, the Consultation Service strives to maintain the highest standards in the delivery of patient care.

Please Note: This is an advisory service. The options presented by the Consultation Service are **neither institutionally nor legally binding**. All services are completely confidential.

Our Staff

Specially trained and qualified medical ethics consultants perform the services. To help identify and address the diverse issues that can develop, the consultants explore the values and concerns of the patient and family. They also draw from the expertise of physicians, nurses, social workers, pastoral care representatives, hospital administration, and legal counsel.

When to Request an Ethics Consultation

Patients, families, and healthcare providers are encouraged to request the assistance of an ethics consultant when seeking guidance in making difficult healthcare decisions.

What Can You Expect?

Typically, the Consultation Service responds within 24 hours (time-sensitive situations will receive immediate attention). The consultant evaluates the current situation, reviews the patient’s social and medical history, and interviews all the parties involved. The consultant then provides some options to consider, working towards a mutually acceptable resolution.