

## How is Your Privacy Protected in a Bioethics Consultation?

When members of the Bioethics Consultation Service discuss a patient's situation they are very careful to respect the patient's privacy. When appropriate, a note is placed in the patient's medical record.

## How can I get in Touch with the Bioethics Consultation Service?

You can ask your physician or nurse to call the Bioethics Consultation Service for you, or you can call the Bioethics Consultation Service directly at:

**301-496-2429**

(Dial 6-2429 inside the Clinical Center)

Or call the Clinical Center Paging Operator at:

**301-496-1211**

(Dial 6-1211 inside the Clinical Center)

Ask to page the Bioethics Consultation Service



Clinical Center Communications



**bioethics** consultation service at the NIH

There may  
be a time when you  
are uncertain about the  
best decision to make  
regarding your medical  
care or whether to partici-  
pate in a research study.  
The NIH Clinical Center's  
Bioethics Consultation  
Service may be able  
to help you.

Warren G. Magnuson  
Clinical Center  
National Institutes of Health

**There are many ways the Bioethics Consultation Service can help you. It is a resource the NIH Clinical Center offers patients, their families, and health professionals to answer questions about concerns involved in medical care, and participation in research studies. It can also assist you to make decisions in difficult situations.**

- Do you have questions about your medical care or participation in a research study?
- Do you want help with difficult decisions regarding participation in a research study?

### **What Does the Bioethics Consultation Service Do?**

The Bioethics Consultation Service is a group of trained professionals at the NIH Clinical Center who are available to listen and respond to your concerns and questions. The Bioethics Consultation Service can help you make a decision that is best for you about your medical care or participation in a research study. It can tell if laws and policies are relevant to your situation. It can suggest trained professionals at the NIH that might be helpful to you. It can also offer advice and suggestions. It will not tell you what to do or make a decision for you.

It can help you to clarify your thoughts, gather relevant information, and make up your mind, so you can make an informed decision. The Bioethics Consultation Service is dedicated to helping everyone involved in the well-being of patients and research participants make the best decisions possible.

### **Who Provides the Bioethics Consultation Service?**

The Bioethics Consultation Service is made up of members of the NIH Department of Bioethics and the NIH Clinical Center Ethics Committee. The members are physicians, nurses, researchers, hospital chaplains, social workers, people trained in ethics and law, and members of the public. The members of the Bioethics Consultation Service have been trained in medical ethics and advising patients.

### **What Concerns and Questions Does the Bioethics Consultation Service Help With?**

The Bioethics Consultation Service can help with difficult choices or decisions you need to make. The Bioethics Consultation Service can help with problems communicating with your physicians or nurses or disagreements about your medical care or participation in research. For instance, you may be uncertain whether a previous decision to participate in a research study is still the best decision for you.

### **Who Can Ask the Bioethics Consultation Service for Help?**

Anyone at the NIH Clinical Center can bring questions to the Bioethics Consultation Service. You or one of your family members can ask for help. So can your physician, nurses, researchers, social worker, or anyone else involved with a patient's care.