

## ***Domains of Ethics in Health Care***

Shared Decision Making with Patients (how well the facility promotes collaborative decision making between clinicians and patients)

- Decision making capacity/competency (ability of the patient to make his/her own health care decisions)
- Informed consent process (providing information to the patient or surrogate, ensuring that the decision is voluntary, and documenting the decision—Note: informed consent for research should be coded under Research)
- Surrogate decision making (selection, role, and responsibilities of the person authorized to make health care decisions for the patient)
- Advance care planning (statements made by a patient with decision-making capacity regarding future health care decisions)
- Limits to patient choice (e.g., choice of care setting, choice of provider, a demand for unconventional treatment)
- Other (topics about shared decision making with patients that do not fit in the categories listed above)

Ethical Practices in End-of-Life Care (how well the facility addresses ethical aspects of caring for patients near the end of life)

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) (withholding or stopping resuscitation in the event of cardiopulmonary arrest, including DNAR or DNR orders)
- Life-sustaining treatments (withholding or stopping artificially administered fluid or nutrition, mechanical ventilation, dialysis, surgery, antibiotics, etc.)
- Medical futility (a clinician's judgment that a therapy will be of no benefit to a patient and that it should not be offered or should be withdrawn)
- Hastening death (intentionally or unintentionally, e.g., questions relating to euthanasia, assisted suicide, or the doctrine of double effect)
- Death and post-mortem issues (determination of death, organ donation, autopsy, disposition of body or tissue, etc.)
- Other (topics about ethical practices in end-of-life care that do not fit in the categories listed above)

Patient Privacy and Confidentiality (how well the facility protects patient privacy and confidentiality)

- Privacy (protecting individuals' interests in maintaining personal space free of unwanted intrusions and in controlling data about themselves)
- Confidentiality (nondisclosure of information obtained as part of the clinician-patient relationship)
- Other (topics about patient privacy and confidentiality that do not fit in the categories listed above)

Professionalism in Patient Care (how well the facility fosters behavior appropriate for health care professionals)

- Conflicts of interest (situations that may compromise the clinician's fiduciary duty to patients, including inappropriate business or personal relationships—Note: financial conflicts of interest relating to the government employee's duty to the public should be coded under Government Service; conflicts of interest relating to the researcher's duty to research subjects should be coded under Research)
- Truth telling (open and honest communication with patients, including disclosing bad news, adverse events—Note: truth telling related to informed consent should be coded under Shared Decision Making; truth telling relating to leadership, human resources, or business integrity should be coded under Ethical Practices in Business and Management; truth telling relating to communications with the public should be coded under Government Service; truth telling among staff should be coded under Ethical Practices in the Everyday Workplace)
- Difficult patients (clinician interactions with patients who do not adhere to treatment plans/health care recommendations or are disruptive)
- Cultural/religious sensitivity (clinician interactions with people of different ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, etc.)
- Other (topics about professionalism in patient care that do not fit in the categories listed above)

Ethical Practices in Resource Allocation (how well the facility demonstrates fairness in allocating resources across programs, services, and patients)

- Systems level (macroallocation) (how well the facility demonstrates fairness in allocating resources across programs and services)
- Individual level (microallocation) (how well the facility demonstrates fairness in allocating resources to individual patients or staff)
- Other (topics about ethical practices in resource allocation that do not fit in the categories listed above)

Ethical Practices in Business and Management (how well the facility promotes high ethical standards in its business and management practices)

- Leadership (behaviors of leaders in support of an ethical environment and culture)
- Human resources (supervisory support for an ethical environment and culture through the high performance management system)
- Business integrity (practices that support oversight of business processes, compliance with legal and ethical standards, and promotion of business quality and integrity)
- Other (topics about ethical practices in business and management that do not fit in the categories listed above)

Ethical Practices in Government Service (how well the facility fosters behavior appropriate for government employees)

- Government ethics rules and laws (ethics rules, regulations, policies or standards of conduct that apply to federal government employees, e.g., bribery, nepotism, gift and travel rules)
- Other (topics about ethical practices in government service that do not fit in the category listed above)

Ethical Practices in the Everyday Workplace (how well the facility supports ethical behavior in everyday interactions in the workplace)

- Respect and dignity (e.g., employee privacy, personal safety, respect for diversity)
- Ethical climate (e.g., openness to ethics discussion, perceived pressure to engage in unethical conduct)
- Other (topics about ethical practices in the everyday workplace that do not fit in the categories listed above)

Ethical Practices in Research (how well the facility ensures that its employees follow ethical standards that apply to research practices)

- Informed consent for research (providing information to the research subject or surrogate, ensuring that the decision is voluntary, and documenting the decision—  
Note: informed consent for clinical care should be coded under Shared Decision Making)
- Other (topics about ethical practices in research that do not fit in the category listed above)

IntegratedEthics Program

- IntegratedEthics structure and processes (characteristics and policies of the facility's formal mechanism(s) for addressing ethics in health care)
- Other (topics about the IntegratedEthics Program that do not fit in the categories listed above)