

Preventive Ethics Summary of ISSUES Cycles–Sample

Directions: The purpose of the Summary of ISSUES Cycles is to provide a concise snapshot of projects completed by the preventive ethics team.

Working Title	Promoting Respect for Professional Boundaries
Date Cycle Started/ Ended	8.01.06/2.03.07
Ethics Domain	(5) Professionalism
Ethics Issue	There have been several reports of staff in the spinal cord injury program having developed personal relationships with patients, including romantic relationships and friendships
Ethics Quality Gap	(3) Inconsistent or unclear guidance
Refined Improvement Goal	Within 6 months, guidelines regarding professional boundaries will be developed and available for dissemination to facility staff
Strategy	Develop a policy on professional boundaries between clinicians and patients
Results	The policy was developed and vetted within 6 months
Next Steps: Adjust/ Disseminate	Disseminate: Human Resources coordinating with Ethics Program and Service Chiefs to develop education/dissemination plan

Comments:

Working Title	Timely Response to Ethics Consultation Requests
Date Cycle Started/ Ended	01.10.07/9.09.07
Ethics Domain	IntegratedEthics Program
Ethics Issue	Ethics consultation service fails to respond in a timely manner, especially in situations the requester perceives as urgent
Ethics Quality Gap	(6) Systems that are designed to promote ethics practice are not functioning optimally
Refined Improvement Goal	Within 6 months, increase the proportion of routine requests that are responded to within 24 hours from 60% to 85%, and the proportion of urgent requests that are responded to within 4 hours from 20% to 90%.
Strategy	Communicate timeliness standards Routinely collect data on respondent satisfaction
Results	89% of routine consultations were responded to within 24 hours 100% of urgent consultations were responded to within 4 hours 90% of requesters rated the timeliness of response as “very good” or “excellent”
Next Steps: Adjust/ Disseminate	Disseminate

Comments: