

	<b>Ethical Decision-Making Framework</b>	<b>Corporate Policy &amp; Procedures Manual</b>
		<b>Policy No.</b> I-30 <b>Date Approved</b> December 17, 2013
<b>Approved by:</b>  Vice President, Mission, Ethics and Spirituality		<b>Date Effective</b> January 17, 2014
		<b>Next Review</b> (3 years from Effective Date) January 2017

**Purpose** The purpose of this policy is to establish Covenant Health’s ethical framework for all ethics-related clinical, administrative, and governance matters.

**Policy Statement** As a Catholic health care organization, Covenant Health is guided by the fundamental principles and values as outlined in the *Health Ethics Guide*, published by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (Ottawa, 2012), and approved by the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops.

The *Health Ethics Guide* is Covenant Health’s primary resource for ethical discernment and decision-making, upon which the organization’s Code of Conduct (*Our Commitment to Ethical Integrity*) and the *Covenant Health Mission Discernment Tool* are based.

**Applicability** This policy applies to all Covenant Health facilities, staff, physicians, volunteers, students and to any other persons acting on behalf of Covenant Health.

**Responsibility** All clinical and administrative leaders are responsible to inform their decision-making through critical reflection and application of the *Health Ethics Guide*, and secondarily, by *Our Commitment to Ethical Integrity*, and to promote their use throughout the organization.

It is the responsibility of the site clinical ethics teams and/or the Covenant Health Clinical Ethicists to provide ethics consultation services (including case debriefings, coaching, education and information). After hour and weekend requests for urgent clinical ethics services are the responsibility of the on-call ethics consultant.

Consults related to an organizational ethics nature are the responsibility of the Vice President, Mission, Ethics and Spirituality.

**Principles** Ethics is a way of life that examines who we ought to be and what we ought to do in light of who we say we are. Grounded in the traditions of our founding Sisters and the evolving ethical reflection of the Catholic Church, Covenant Health seeks to bring the best of our tradition and lived experience to ethical issues. Each day we make important personal, clinical and organizational issues. As an organization, our ethical reflection takes place within the context of our mission, vision and values.

- Procedure**
1. For urgent ethics consult requests, dial the switchboard at 780.735.9000 and ask for the on-call ethics consultant.
  2. For general ethics inquiries or to discuss an ethical concern call a member of the site ethics team through the Ethics Centre or the Clinical Ethicist at 780.735.2021.
  3. For organizational ethics or mission discernment issues, call the office of the Vice President of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality at 780.735.9597.

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**Related Documents**

*Health Ethics Guide*  
*Our Commitment to Ethical Integrity (Code of Conduct)*  
*Ethics at Covenant Health*  
*Covenant Health Ethics Services: Helping Individuals, Teams, Patients & Families*  
*Covenant Health Mission Discernment Tool*

**Revisions**

December 1, 2010