

WHAT IS a clinical ethics consultation?

Every day, treating teams, service users, and their loved ones face decisions related to care and services. These decisions are not always strictly medical; many involve moral or ethical considerations. Because individuals and teams may prioritize values and ethical principles differently, these situations can give rise to ethical dilemmas.

The Clinical Ethics Service (CES) is designed to support you when a situation feels complex, when values are in tension, or when it is difficult to reach a fair, acceptable, or shared decision.

WHEN TO consult ethics?

At any time during the episode of care and services, for example when:

- The values and beliefs of a service user, their family, or the team conflict with what can be done from a medical perspective.
- The team feels uncomfortable with a service user's request to stop curative treatment.
- The team wonders what decision would be best, while considering both the best interests of a child and the rights of the child's parents (contact the Child and Youth Ethics Service).
- A relative must make a decision for a service user who can't participate in the decision-making process, and the relative has questions about their role and whether the treatment recommended by the team is in accordance with the patient's wishes.



Santé Québec Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal
Universitaire

CLINICAL ETHICS SERVICE

HOW DOES clinical ethics consultation work?

An ethicist will support all parties involved in:

- **Identifying** the issues;
- **Clarifying** the values and principles at stake;
- **Analyzing** the options and supporting the thought process behind each option;
- **Determining** the preferred option.

The clinical ethics consultation service has a power of recommendation. It will not decide for you, but will **COUNSEL, ASSIST** and **SUPPORT** you.



WHO CAN request an ethics consultation?

- Any employees of Santé Québec Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal - Universitaire (physicians, care team, etc.). There is no need for approvals from supervisors.
- Service users, their family and loved ones.

HOW TO REQUEST an ethics consultation?

Contact the clinical ethics service by writing to ethique.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca (preferred).

If you are unable to send an email, you can call 438-864-1492 or 438-860-9572.

You can also ask someone from the care team to contact the service for you.

If the consultation concerns service users under 18 years old, contact the Child and Youth Ethics Service by writing to: franco.carnevale@mcgill.ca.

What is the BEST THING TO DO?

If a situation appears complex or it seems **difficult** to make a fair or acceptable decision, an **ethics consultation** is recommended to support you in your **decision making**.

A confidential service available to users and employees of Santé Québec Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal - Universitaire.



60_003A-07.26

