


<b>SUBJECT:</b> Ethical Issues		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Intensive Care Services	<b>Page:</b> 1	
<b>REFERENCE #</b> 01-02-0010	<b>Of:</b> 1	

## 1 POLICY:

Ethical issues will follow a framework to systematically analyze different moral points of view. In carrying out this analysis, the objective to achieve a rational justification for one course of action over another is based on consideration of recognized principles and accepted values.

## 2 PROCEDURE:

### 2.1 Maintain patient confidentiality.

**2.1.1** The following individuals should be notified of the issue and need for further discussion: unit director, nurse executive, primary physician, hospital risk manager, hospital counsel. (To determine legal issue vs. ethical issue)

**2.2** Identify one person other than the patient, who is familiar with the patient i.e. next of kin, power of attorney.

**2.3** Individuals notified by staff should meet and discuss the following points:

**2.3.1** Collect data, establish facts

**2.3.2** Identify all major options

**2.4** Evaluate options according to the values and principles involved

**2.4.1** Identify ethical conflicts and try to set priorities

**2.4.2** Select the option that can be best justified

**2.4.3** Re-evaluate the decision after it is acted upon

**2.4.4** Refer to appropriate medical committee for peer review

Director of Department	Director of Medical Administration	Program Director