

Kaiser Permanente Ethics Committee

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Please contact us if you have questions
or would like an ethics
consult.



Ethics Committee
Kaiser Permanente
San Leandro Medical
Center
2500 Merced Street
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 454-2015



WHEN YOU FACE A DIFFICULT

dilemma
involving care

Our mission

We serve as a resource and source of guidance to patients, families, physicians, staff, medical center administration and other decision makers regarding ethical questions or dilemmas that arise in the clinical setting.

About the Ethics Committee

One of our goals at Kaiser Permanente is to provide health care that respects the values and human dignity of our patients, their families and the healthcare community. Our Ethics Committees help us meet this goal by providing a forum for the identification and discussion of ethical, moral and social questions and conflicts arising from the delivery of health care.

The Ethics Committee:

- Provides patients and staff education concerning ethical issues
- Responds to requests for multidisciplinary consultation concerning the care of an individual patient
- Recommends and assists in the development of policies related to bioethics

This Committee helps to clarify options and provide recommendations in a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere. For example, we can help if family members disagree about what to do for an unconscious relative who is on life support or if a patient wants to decline medical care because of personal beliefs.

Ethics Committee Members

Physicians, nurses, chaplains, social workers, other staff- and members of the community participate in the Ethics Committee.



The Ethics Committee helps:

- Groups with opposing viewpoints discuss and clarify their choices and options
- Patients and families consider courses of actions based on our recommendations
- Patients and their medical teams to reach agreement about what to do

We also review internal staff education and policy issues about:

- Patient's rights
- Withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining care
- "Do not resuscitate" (DRN) orders
- Conflict resolution

The recommendations of the Ethics Committee are non-binding and not intended to replace the physician-patient relationship. Decisions about your care are still up to you and your physician.

We are here to help

Anyone, including patients and families, may refer a case to the Ethics Committee.

If you would like to consult with the Ethics Committee, please call **(510) 454-2015** and leave a message with the following information:

- Your name and how to reach you (include times)
- The patient's name and location/room number
- The patient's Medical Record Number (if known)
- Names of physicians and other members of the patient's medical team
- A brief description of your concern or ethical issue

Voicemail is checked Monday through Friday (except holidays). We will respond as soon as possible.

When we call back, we will gather details about your concern, such as:

- A brief description of the case, including the patient's diagnosis
- Information about key people in the patient's life, including family members, significant others and friends.
- Information about applicable legal documents, such as advance directives

Ethics Committee members will gather information and conduct preliminary interviews. We meet personally with interested parties, as needed.