



# LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

## OPERATING POLICY

<b>CATEGORY:</b>	PATIENTS' RIGHTS	<b>CODE:</b>	CH-P-12
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CONFLICT RESOLUTION REGARDING PATIENT CARE	<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	06/2021
		<b>REPLACES:</b>	06/2018
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Related Policies:

[Clinical Ethics Consultations \(CH-M-138\)](#)

[Patient Complaints and Grievances \(CH-P-13\)](#)

1. Conflicts between patients/families/guardians and the attending physician regarding admission, treatment, or discharge decisions shall be resolved, when possible, by a thorough discussion among the parties involved. A designee from the Patient Relations Department may be included in consultation to facilitate resolution of the problem.

1.1 This discussion should take place within a reasonable time period that is acceptable to the patient/family/guardian, preferably within a few hours, but at least within the same day.

1.2 In no way shall this discussion, or proposal of discussion, obviate the patient/family/guardian's right to make a complaint. Such complaints shall be managed according to the provisions of Policy [Patient Complaints and Grievances \(CH-P-13\)](#).

2. Conflicts not resolved by discussion among the involved parties shall, as appropriate, be referred to the Ethics Consultation Service, the Neonatal Infant Care Review Subcommittee, or the Fetal Care Review Subcommittee, as appropriate.

NOTE: If the conflict is not readily resolved, the matter may be discussed with the LLUCH Ethics Committee Chair and the Ethics Committee and/or the appropriate Subcommittee may be convened for further review.

The Administrator On-Call/Chief of Staff/designee should be notified of the unresolved situation.

3. An ethics consultation may be requested by any member of the health care team or by the patient or patient surrogate.

4. The final authority for addressing issues related to conflicts regarding patient care between LLUCH and the patients and/or families or guardians, for those issues for which no formal complaint has been made, shall rest with the Chief Executive Officer of LLUCH/designee. Authority for resolution of formal patient complaints shall rest with LLUCH employees and officers according to the provisions of Policy CH-P-13.

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**APPROVERS:** LLUCH Chief Executive Officer, LLUCH Chief Nursing Officer, LLUCH Hospital Executive Leadership, LLUCH Medical Staff President and Chair of MSEC



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## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

<b>CATEGORY:</b>	PATIENTS' RIGHTS	<b>CODE:</b>	CH-P-12.A
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INITIATOR OF ACTION	ACTION
<p>Physician, Patient, Patient Surrogate, and/or Health Care Team Members</p> <p>Ethics Consultant</p>	<p><b>REFERRAL TO ETHICS CONSULTATION SERVICES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requests an ethics consultation from the Ethics Consultation Service.</li> <li>2. Discusses case with person making the request; determines if attending physician is aware of the request and invites the attending physician to attend the meeting.</li> <li>3. Reviews patient's medical record to determine facts; may perform a brief examination of the patient.</li> <li>4. Obtains information from pertinent literature of medicine, ethics, or law.</li> <li>5. Carry out conversation as needed with:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Various members of health care team.</li> <li>5.2 Patient and the family.</li> <li>5.3 Appropriate medical or non-medical (legal, administrative, spiritual) consultants.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. May request a management conference at which all parties are asked to convene for further discussion of the case, including further management options.</li> <li>7. After evaluation is complete, writes a consultation report in the patient's chart, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 The history and examination</li> <li>7.2 An assessment</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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<b>INITIATOR OF ACTION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	7.3 An ethical analysis and discussion
	7.4 Specific recommendations (delineating which management options are ethically permissible and suggesting new options as appropriate).
	<b><u>IF CASE IS NOT READILY RESOLVED</u></b>
Ethics Consultant	8. May discuss with the Chair of the LLUCH Ethics Committee.
Ethics Consultant/Attending Physician	9. Notifies Vice President for Medical Administration/ Administrator On-Call of unresolved situation.
Chair, Ethics Committee	10. May convene Ethics Committee for further discussion.
Attending Physician	11. Takes steps to resolve conflict that protects rights of patient to accept or refuse treatment.
Ethics Consultant	12. Maintains contact with the patient and/or staff as long as patient remains in the hospital, and after discharge as deemed appropriate.
Chair, Ethics Committee	13. Schedules consultation for review at the next LLUCH Ethics Committee meeting.
Any Involved Party	14. If issue remains unresolved, refers to Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hospital.
Chief Executive Officer of LLUCH	15. Makes final determination regarding the issue.