



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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### Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: The wood for the trees. Aims of ethics support: between theory and practice

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Those attending this presentation will gain insight in:

1) the interplay between theoretical viewpoints and practical implications of aims of ethics support in general, and Moral Case Deliberation (MCD) in particular

2) the aims of ethics support as expressed by different stakeholders in Dutch healthcare institutions (based on a nationwide survey and institutional projects)

#### Introduction

Though theory formulates many goals for of ethics support, it is not known to what extent these goals are applicable to and existing in practice. Following a responsive evaluation method and using questionnaires, interviews and focus groups, diverse stakeholder groups from Dutch healthcare institutions were asked to reflect upon aims of ethics support and MCD.

This presentation focuses on comparison of aims of ethical support from theoretical and practical viewpoint. Based on three research studies, results are presented regarding: a) aims of ethics support according to board members of health care institutions, and b) aims of MCD according to healthcare professionals participating in MCD implementation projects.

## Results

Board members regard 'professionalization' as the main aim of ethics support. Other important goals are: education, advice and (mutual) learning. Concerning Moral Case Deliberation, a wide variety of aims is perceived amongst the diverse groups of healthcare professionals (managers, local coordinators, nurses etc.) actively involved in (implementation processes of) MCD, such as improvement of communication, broadening horizons or conceptual clarification.

## Discussion

Dutch healthcare institutions obtain a variety of aims concerning ethics support. Question rises whether this is problematic from a theoretical (and) ethical point of view. Starting from practice we wonder: what can ethics learn from this? Is there a distinction between practical aims and theoretical results of ethics support?

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

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Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes     No