



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at ethics@providence.org with any questions.

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Proposed title of paper: Documenting Ethics Consultation In the Health Record

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

For many ethics consultation services, it is standard practice to document clinical ethics case consultations in the patient's health record. Such documentation not only communicates information to involved staff, it also promotes accountability and transparency, provides documentation for legal purposes, and serves an important educational purpose.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the learner will be able to:

1. Outline the goals of documenting ethics consultations in health records
2. Discuss the specific consultation information that should be documented in health records, and
3. Discuss the specific consultation information that should be documented in consultation service records, but not in health records

As with all entries in the health record, ethics consultation note(s) should be timely, relevant, accurate and complete. Ethics consultation health record documentation should contain: information about the person requesting the consult, including their understanding of circumstances and the ethical concern; information about the patient; a clear statement of the ethics question; sources and summary of relevant information; a description of any formal meetings held; a summary of the ethical analysis; identification of the ethically appropriate decision maker(s); details of options considered; an explanation of whether consensus was reached; and recommendations and action plans.

Information that is relevant to the ethics consultation, but not to the care of the specific patient, should be documented separately in ethics consultation service records so it can be used for subsequent

reference or quality improvement (e.g., suggestions for improving systems issues or future ethics consultations, workload statistics, observations about specific interpersonal dynamics).

A sample ethics consultation health record summary note and template will be provided during the presentation.

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

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

Yes No