



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: Justifying Clinical Ethics: Bridging the Gap Between Evaluation and Advocacy

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

The evaluation of clinical ethics consultation is undoubtedly an important part of clinical ethics. It helps to ensure accountability and high quality service, but it also functions to fulfill another purpose: to advocate for clinical ethics services. Nonetheless, the evaluation of clinical ethics consultation presupposes that such a service is something worth having. For instance, the evaluation of an ethics consultation process assumes that we ought to have one; the evaluation of access to ethics consultation supposes that people should be able to avail of their services.

In the first part of this paper I argue that if the goal of evaluation is part advocacy, then we need to answer at least two further questions: 1) Why should clinicians and healthcare institutions act ethically? and 2) why are clinical ethics services needed to promote ethical behavior? Neither answer is obvious. On the one hand, philosophers since Plato have worried about how to justify ethical behavior. On the other hand, there are few if, any other areas of life where we have ethics services to promote such behavior.

In the second part of the paper I explore different answers to these questions. These answers not only bridge the gap between evaluation and advocacy, but also enrich the discussion of the goals of clinical ethics. For instance, if we think that clinicians ought to act ethically because it improves their own well-being—as some have argued—then this conclusion might justify certain types of outcome measures, for instance, quality of life measures.

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