



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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Abstract Submission Form – Posters

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Others? Please include Name, Title/Degree, Institution and Country:

Proposed title of poster: Participation of patients, family members and surrogates in clinical ethics consultation

Abstract of poster content with three clearly stated objectives (up to 250 words):

Clinical ethics consultation is “defined as a service provided by an individual consultant, team, or committee to address the ethical issues involved in a specific clinical case. Its central purpose is to improve the process and outcomes of patients’ care by helping to identify, analyze and resolve ethical problems.” (Fletcher JC & Siegler M, 1996) In most cases, ethics consultations respond to the need of staff members for support in difficult decisions. The participation of patients, family members and or surrogates in clinical ethics consultation is often in contention.

In our hospital, patients or (in case the patient is too young or incompetent) family members and/or surrogates have been systematically and increasingly included in ethics consultation. The contribution of patients, family members and surrogates are necessary in interpretation of patient preferences. In addition, the communication between staff members and families about preferences contribute to a value-oriented atmosphere within an otherwise (often) technical-oriented treatment.

We report about the structure of our consultation and experience in including patients, family members and surrogates in our clinical ethics consultation. The proportion of participation has been increased from 25% (2006) to 50% (2009). Positive feedbacks of these groups support our strategy of inclusion. Pitfalls, advantages and structural prerequisites of participation of patients, family members and surrogates are discussed and conclusions for clinical ethics consultations are drawn.

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?

Yes No