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<th>ETHICAL ISSUES: CONSULTATION &amp; RESOLUTION</th>
<th>Policy #: CP225</th>
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<tr>
<td>NHPCO Standard(s): EBR1</td>
<td>BOD Approval/Review 03/26/14</td>
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<td>Regulatory Citation(s): COPs 418.52 and NYS Title 10, Article 9, 794.1</td>
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**POLICY**

High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. (HPHPC) patients and/or their designated representative have the right to participate in the consideration of ethical issues.

**PROCEDURE**

1. When questions arise pertaining to ethical issues, the HPHPC Ethics Committee will meet to discuss such issues. The Committee has the responsibility to define ethical issues; facilitate actual resolution of actual or potential conflicts; provide a forum for discussion of ethical issues that arise in the provision of care or service; and provide staff with resources concerning ethical issues. As appropriate to their responsibilities, HPHPC staff, the patient or their designated representative and the patient's physician may all participate in discussions and the resolution of conflicts and ethical issues related to patient care situations.

2. Minutes will be kept of such meetings in a confidential file.

3. Biannually, the Ethics Committee will present a summary of the findings to the HPHPC Board of Directors.

4. Interdisciplinary patient-centered conferences are also a forum to address conflict of care issues and ethical concerns. These conferences can be held at the HPHPC clinical office or the patient's home. Any HPHPC staff involved with the patient's care or the patient and/or caregiver can request a meeting.

5. HPHPC staff members are informed of this process for the handling and resolving of ethical issues during orientation and during their annual performance appraisal, if appropriate.

6. Patients and/or their designated representative not satisfied with outcomes of the ethical committee, have the right to voice a grievance and follow the appeal procedure.

7. Refer to the Ethics Consultation Process (See Attachments)
The Ethics Committee is a committee whose purpose is to guide HPHPC in policy making, education and consultation on issues relative to bio-legal-ethical decision making. Issues such as DNR and withdrawal of life sustaining treatment are examples of topics that may be undertaken by the group.

Many caregivers are challenged with difficult decisions regarding treatment options for our patients. In an effort to enable caregivers to support patient care delivery that is consistent with the mission of HPHPC, the Clinical Committee has developed a consultation process.

ETHICS CONSULTATION PROCESS

Who can request consultation?

- Anyone may request an ethics consultation. If the request is related to patient care the issue should first be discussed and reviewed by the HPHPC Medical Director and involved HPHPC Team members. If not resolved, the request should be given to the Executive Director. If it is not related to patient care the request should first be directed to the Executive Director, not the Hospice Medical Director.

What are some possible reasons for consultation?

- Conflicts regarding treatment decisions
- DNR concerns
- Informed consent issues

How is the request processed?

- Consult is called into the Executive Director.
- A member of the Ethics Committee will respond to the person initiating the request within 24 hours on weekdays to begin the process of resolution.
Direction: To be completed by Ethics Committee member responding to a request for consultation. Please return this report to the High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. Executive Director upon completion.

Decision Making Process

- Identify the Decision Makers
- Consider Relevant Facts
- Examine Viable Options
- Consider Short & Long Term Consequences
- List The Values Reflected In The Case
- Determine The Values In Conflict
- Prioritize The Values In Light Of The Alternatives
- Justify the Decision

(Recommendation)

Name ___________________________ Admission Date __________

DOB _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Rm _____ Attending MD ________

Primary Diagnosis:

Consult Requested by ___________________________ Date ______

Name / Title

Ethics Committee Member(s)

_____________________________ Date __________

Name / Title

_____________________________ Date __________

Name / Title

_____________________________ Date __________

Name / Title

Reason for Consultation:
Was consultation responded to within 24 hours? __ Yes __ No  Date ________

If No briefly describe barriers or extenuating circumstances.

Outcomes (Describe what was done, outcomes and process):

Evaluation of consultation (describe participant satisfaction/dissatisfaction with strengths/ weaknesses, etc.):

Recommendations/follow up:

Medical Record
Documentation completed by ______________________________
Name ______________________________

Documentation Criteria
• Consultation Request
• Identification of ethical issue
• Outcome of consultation
• Persons present during consultation

Signature ______________________________  Date ________________
OUR MISSION (Article III from By-Laws)

Dignity, comfort and peace at end of life. High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. provides end of life care that listens with respect, cares with compassion, supports with choice and comforts with understanding wherever you call home.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TO:

Facilitate the individual’s ability to remain at home cared for by family, friends and the hospice team.

Advocate control of pain and other symptoms resulting from the illness or its treatment.

Promote the freedom of families to maintain dignity, control of decision-making, and privacy which will enhance their quality of life.

Coordinate all care of the individual with the attending physician in and outside of the home (e.g. hospital, nursing home, etc.)

Serve as an advocate for the patient and family in identifying and accessing services which help maintain the individual’s lifestyle.

Offer bereavement services to family and friends.

Ensure the availability of all hospice services throughout the service area to those who desire this care and meet admission criteria.

Evaluate and improve our program services to assure we continually respond in a caring manner to our patients and families, the changing needs of our communities, and provide high quality, cost effective services.

STATEMENT ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE
We are here neither to prolong life nor to hasten death.

LAST REVIEW DATE: BOD 03/26/14

LAST UPDATED: Compliance Coord 04/20/15

BOARD APPROVAL: March 26, 2014