

**FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER  
MEDICAL STAFF POLICIES &  
PROCEDURES**

Subject: **Mission Statement &  
Committee Function**

Category: Bioethics Committee  
Supersedes: 10/18/95

Effective: 01/15/97

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Bioethics Program at Fairfield Medical Center is to create an environment in which the ethical tenets of healthcare are recognized as consequential and are addressed throughout the organization, from individual practice through organizational policy. Fairfield Medical Center is committed to the care of people from birth to death in a manner which ensures patient and family dignity, privacy and respect. We affirm the right of the patient to participate in the planning and decision making process affecting his or her treatment. Fairfield Medical Center is committed to the support and education of its patients, employees, physicians and community in biomedical ethics and the process of biomedical ethical decision making.

**POLICY**

Fairfield Medical Center has established a Bioethics Committee to promote awareness and support for the healthcare decision-making process of its patients, families, employees and physicians through education, policy review and recommendations; consultation and counseling. Fairfield Medical Center is committed to the care of people from birth to death in a manner which ensures dignity, privacy and respect, and affirms the right of the patient or surrogates to participate in the planning and decision-making process affecting treatment.

**PURPOSE**

To promote communication and facilitate sharing of information in a non-judgmental atmosphere so mutual understanding between healthcare providers and receivers is achieved.

**STRUCTURE/LEADERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP**

The Bioethics Committee is advisory in nature. The Chair shall be appointed by the President of the Medical Staff, and the Committee shall consist of physicians, and may also include the Vice President-Patient Services, two (2) nursing representatives, one (1) Case Management representative, one (1) Patient Advocate and one (1) representative of the Center Chaplaincy. The Committee may invite knowledgeable members of the community to become Committee members, as they deem appropriate.

The Bioethics Committee will meet monthly or at the call of the Committee Chair.

Fairfield Medical Center Bioethics Committee will promote and facilitate communication and sharing of information so mutual understanding between health

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### **COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS**

1. To assist in the formulation of Medical Center policy as it pertains to Medical Ethics.
2. To provide a non-judgmental atmosphere in which to explore ethical dilemmas both prospectively and retrospectively by clarification of values and development of a rational decision making process.
3. To serve as a forum and source of ideas for resolution of ethical conflict in actual hospital cases.
4. To assist and support the Medical Center and Medical Staff in clarifying treatment goals and care plans in ethical issues.
5. To educate Medical Center Staff, Medical staff and the community regarding ethical issues as they apply to Healthcare.