



The *EthicsLab Essentials* provides a core curriculum designed to enrich ethics committee members through a podcast and website format. A podcast format was chosen due to its easy accessibility and learning schedule flexibility for the listener.

### **Episode: Do Not Resuscitate Orders: Key Ethical Issues**

#### **Description:**

As patients, surrogate decision makers, and clinicians discuss goals of care, questions arise regarding what interventions will physiologically work and what interventions will honor the patient's values. Do Not Resuscitate Orders are one of the interventions frequently discussed. Do Not Resuscitate orders include, but are not limited to: a) patient/surrogate desires for full resuscitation despite the intervention's lack of efficacy in specific clinical circumstances, b) consideration of partial codes as a "compromise" co-status, and c) a physicians' professional right to limit the use of resuscitation efforts in certain circumstances.

#### **Process:**

Have your ethics team members listen to this podcast prior to your regular ethics committee meeting. Then, at your meeting facilitate a discussion and application of the episode around the following questions.

#### **Facilitation Questions:**

1. How might ethics committees help health care teams encountering requests to have "everything done" including full resuscitation, especially when circumstances might suggest the intervention is non-beneficial or even harmful?
2. How does the ethics committee collaborate in continuous quality improvement initiatives that review whether the right patient is getting the right treatment at the right time, especially relative to resuscitation?
3. What strategies could the ethics committee develop to proactively address ethical issues associated with code status? How might these strategies align with similar operational goals?
4. What tools or resources could an ethics committee provide to clinicians to respond to requests for partial codes?