



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: Discharge Dilemmas – Patients with Disabilities

Description:

Consider someone leaving a hospital, after their care is completed at that location, to return to their home and local community. As discharge plans are made to continue their care, their healing, their rehabilitation, are there ethical challenges that arise? Can there be biases that shape that plan because of their ability, disability, lack of family support systems or resources available in the community? What are the frameworks, tools, approaches that assist all involved? Our guests will offer their experience in these discharge plan dilemmas and offer the practical approaches they have utilized every day.

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 discharge dilemmas, especially cognitive biases like “confirmation bias” in both clinician and patient points of view, on the discharge plan?
2. How might the “dignity of risk” framework discussed in the episode be utilized by the ethics committee to respond to individual cases and systemic patterns regarding discharge dilemmas? Were there other ideas or helpful frameworks offered in the episode that could be utilized to make an impact.
3. Who would the committee need to collaborate with, that they may not currently collaborate with, to best address these systemic biases in your organization?
4. What education strategy or resources could an ethics committee provide to clinicians to respond to discharge dilemmas consultation requests?