

Developing 'Ethics' in your Trust

.... in 7 (quick) steps....

Step 1

- Establish a Clinical Ethics Advisory Group (or Clinical Ethics Committee) – “CEC”
- ...be sure to have ‘opinion leaders’ on your CEC – even if they do not have ethics training

Step 2

- Ensure that your CEC is linked to all aspects of Clinical Governance at Trust Level
 - Clinical Standards Committee
 - Adult and Child Protection
 - Policies review group (restraints, DNAR etc)
 - Take a leadership role in MCA and DoLS group
 - Liaise closely with the Medical Director
 - Send minutes to Clinical Directors

Step 3

- Offer to support ethics teaching and training for medical students and nurses and young doctors – at induction and during the year
- Offer to attend Departmental M&M meetings, Clinical Governance and audit meetings (“in order to ‘give an ethics perspective’ “)

Step 4

- Offer to give a lecture (at least annually) at a general meeting (including managers) in your trust – e.g. on “Professionalism” or “Ethical implications of the Francis Report” or “Facing up to a paninfluenza epidemic” etc
- Support the establishment of Schwartz Rounds in your trust – and speak up ‘from an ethics perspective’ at these meetings

Step 5

- Make your CEC available for urgent ‘bed-side’ ethics consults – be sure not to disempower clinicians....

....“I am simply here to help us think through the ethical implications of the different courses of action open to the clinical team” ...

Step 6

- Provide an ethics framework (e.g. the UKCEN frameworks) to ITU trainees and Older Peoples Medicine trainees – i.e. “high risk areas”
- Encourage “ethics-speak”: Not “in my opinion” ...
- ...but “based on this ethical principle, I think it follows that...”

Step 7

- Encourage trainees to do at least one ‘medical ethics-type audit’ as part of their PDP in their F1/F2 years
- Encourage Educational Supervisors to consider domains of “ethical behaviour” when they comment on “Professionalism” in their End of Year reviews.