

WHO MIGHT YOU FIND ON AN ETHICS COMMITTEE?

- ◇ *Physicians*
- ◇ *Nurses*
- ◇ *Lay members*
- ◇ *Surgeons*
- ◇ *Other Health Care Professionals*
- ◇ *Psychiatrists*
- ◇ *Chaplains/clerics of any denomination*
- ◇ *General Practitioners*
- ◇ *Academic Ethicists*



Providing Support for CECs

"The Clinical Ethics Network has been enormously helpful in the following ways:

- ◆ *The website is informative and gives access to information & courses.*
- ◆ *The conferences & workshops organised by UKCEN have been attended by a large proportion of our members & have been a very helpful way of increasing our knowledge and expertise.*
- ◆ *The Round Robin discussions give us broader perspectives on similar issues.*
- ◆ *The UKCEN newsletter keeps us up to date with policy, conferences, surveys, etc.*
- ◆ *It has helped our committee to network with other committees."*

CEC Chair

Let us Introduce Ourselves!

If you are interested in the work of UKCEN please contact us for further written information and look at our website.

We would also be happy to come and talk to your organisation about our work.

*Contact us on
024 76 151607
or email: info@ukcen.net
or on the web at www.ukcen.net*

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What is UKCEN?

It is a registered charity established in 2001 to provide support for Clinical Ethics Committees (CECs) within NHS trusts. The trustees are members of CECs and include Nurses, Doctors and Academic Ethicists.

UKCEN
CLINICAL ETHICS NETWORK

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What are the aims of UKCEN?

It is our view that all NHS staff with patient involvement should have access to CECs; whether in the guise of clinical consultation with difficult ethical issues; development of institutional policies involving ethical issues; and education of health workers.

In most developed countries it is a mandatory requirement that health institutions have CECs. In the UK CECs have developed on an ad hoc basis and are found in a minority of settings.

It is the view of UKCEN that patient care is enhanced within institutions hosting CECs. The Francis Enquiry Report refers to the importance of having “a common set of core values shared throughout the system” as an essential step to fundamentally improving the quality of the NHS. Since ‘ethics’ is a formal way of thinking about and implementing ‘values’, it follows that we should do all we can to promote ethics support in clinical practice.

How do we work?

We provide support and information for established ethics committees and for trusts hoping to establish such committees.

We organise training workshops delivered at a local level for members of CECs. We organise an annual conference – themes have included disability, end of life

decisions and ethics in a multicultural society.

We have a website which is an educational resource for members, and allows exchange of views (contributions to discussion on difficult ethical issues) and summarises relevant court judgements.

Relevance to your organisation

To achieve the aims of UKCEN requires the Department of Health to both accept and mandate a universal system of Clinical ethics support.

It is clear to us that for this to happen there has to be consensus among both professional and patient organisations and that this will enhance the care of users of the NHS.

We hope to open discussions with the Department of Health.



What do ethics committees do?

- ◆ They contribute to hospital policies on issues such as consent, Do Not Attempt Resuscitation Orders, and patient restraint.
- ◆ They respond to requests for advice from health professionals on ethically challenging situations such as decisions to withdraw life sustaining treatment or disclosure of patient information.
- ◆ They may provide on call service to respond to the needs of clinicians for urgent ethics advice involving issues such as patients refusing lifesaving treatment.
- ◆ They can provide a forum for discussion between clinicians and families when there is uncertainty about what is the right thing to do for a person who lacks capacity to decide for themselves.
- ◆ They organise educational sessions and grand rounds for hospital staff to raise awareness of the ethical aspects of patient care.