



MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

MGH Optimum Care Committee

Overall Objective

Provide consultation to patients, surrogates, physicians, nurses and interdisciplinary professionals during times of conflict at end of life. The OCC will also consider clinical consultations that are not end of life. The committee is also responsible for the content of MGH policies, as follows:

- End of Life Care Policy
- Life Sustaining Treatment Policy
- Life Sustaining Treatment Policy: Resolving Intractable Conflict

Leadership

Ellen M. Robinson RN PhD (Co-Chair)
Eric Krakauer MD PhD (Co-Chair)
Cornelia Cremens MD (Interim Co-Chair)
Alexandra Cist MD (Education Coordinator)
Rosemarie Lemole (Acting Administrative Assistant)

Membership

The OCC is comprised of interdisciplinary membership, including physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, rehabilitation professionals, respiratory therapists and community members. Patients, families or clinicians can place an OCC consult. Any professionals that wonder about the 'fit' of their request to the OCC can page Ellen Robinson RN PhD, Alexandra Cist MD, Marilyn Wise MSW or Mary Zwirner MSW to talk over the case, to determine if the request is appropriate. Occasionally, clinicians want to talk about the case, and consider a consult, but express fear in doing so. In such cases, talking with one of the persons named above can lead to a good strategy to place the consult. The message is this: Do not hold back in a state of 'moral distress', rather, reach out to an ethics resource for assistance and support!!

Consult Procedure

- OCC Consults are taken Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM
- Monday or Friday, page Ellen Robinson to place consult
- Tues, Wed, Thurs, call Ms. Rosemarie Lemole @ 617-726-1854
- The following information will be requested, when a consult is called:

OCC CONSULT REQUEST			
Date		Admission Date	
Patient		Unit	
DOB		Requested by	
MR #		Social Work Involved (?)	
Age		Chaplaincy Involved (?)	
Diagnosis		PT / OT / SLP Involved (?)	
REASON FOR CONSULT			

- OCC consultants will interview stakeholders in the case, including interdisciplinary team members and patient/surrogates
- OCC consultants may recommend a team meeting and/or team-family meeting
- OCC consultants will enter a note into medical record that includes an ethical analysis and recommendations.
- OCC consultants will follow up as needed
- The committee meets once per month to review consults.

Some Examples of OCC consults would include:

- A patient is approaching end of life, and the family does not seem to understand this. Usual measures of trying to assist the family have failed.
- A patient has had a procedure, and does not seem to be recovering. As a clinician, you believe that all signs point to end of life. Others on the team do not agree with you/others. Usual measures of team discussion are not working.
- A patient is very ill, and has an advance directive, but it is unclear if prognosis meets the terms of the patient's advance directive.