



University of California  
San Francisco

# Ethics Committee Update

QIEC Meeting

June 2019

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Chair, Medical Ethics Committee  
Chief, Ethics Consult Service



# Ethics Committee/Service Overview

- Multidisciplinary (Parnassus, Mt Zion, Mission Bay)
  - SW, RN, Spiritual Care services, Risk, Legal, Patient Relations
  - MD: Neurology, Hospital Medicine, Pediatrics, Palliative Care, Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry/Psychology
  - GME rotating trainees
- Monthly meeting
  - Case discussion, policy evaluation, educational activities
- 24-7 consultation service
  - Available to providers, patients, and families

# Activities and Accomplishments

May 2018 – May 2019

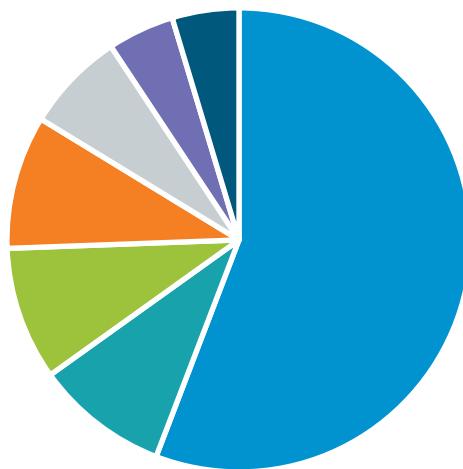
- Continued educational series at ethics meetings, grand rounds, and staff (RN) and physician group meetings
  - Combat *moral distress*: organized ethical reasoning
- Updates to UCSF policies
  - Pediatric brain death
  - Unilateral DNR
  - Organ donation after cardiovascular death (ongoing)
- New committee membership and representation
- In-person ethics consultations

# Activities and Accomplishments

May 2018 - May 2019

- 48 from MD, 1 NP, 4 patient, 4 outpatient

Consultations (53)



- Medicine (24)
- Cardiology (4)
- Surgical Services (CT; HB; NSGY; Gen Surg: 1)
- Peds/NICU (4)
- Grey (3)
- Purple (2)
- Neurology (2)

# Recurring consult themes

May 2018 - May 2019

- Limitation of life-sustaining therapies
  - Interpretation and education
  - Medically *ineffective* care
  - Unilateral decision-making
- Decision-making for incapacitated patients, especially those without surrogate decision-makers (“unbefriended” patients)
  - Procedural decisions
  - Attending comfort with assuming decision-making authority
- Addressing *moral distress*

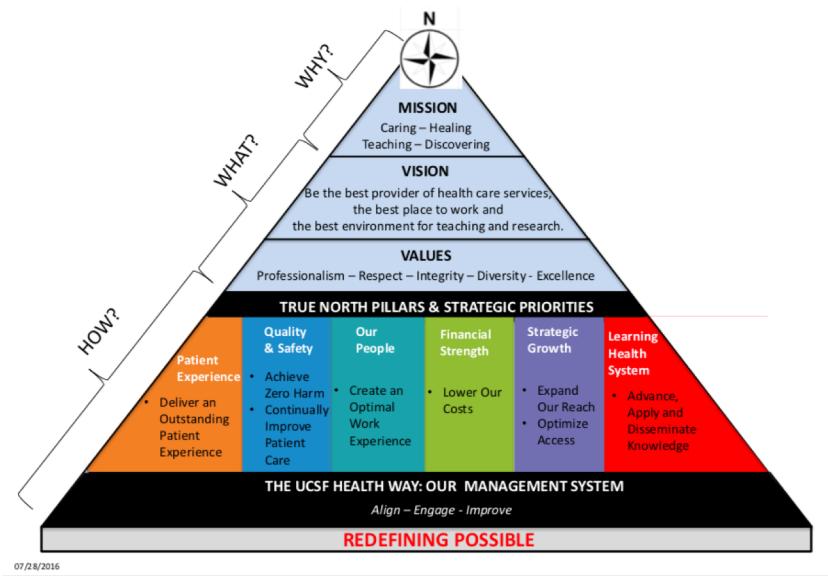
# New themes

May 2018 - May 2019

- Reproduction
  - Sperm harvest, sterilization, pregnancy termination
- Brain death
  - Education of patient, family and providers on brain death and brain death policy
- Social components influencing health care
  - Provider and staff well-being in the context of behavioral challenges and discrimination
  - What constitutes “*health*”

# Looking ahead

- Ongoing outreach across UCSF Health
- Community member on committee
- Integration with health system initiatives
  - GME Well-Being Committee
  - Health Equity initiatives
  - QI efforts





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