



## **Criteria for Policy Review/Input by Capital Health Ethics Support**

Capital Health is committed to working with employees, physicians, learners and volunteers to put values into practice. Accordingly, Capital Health Ethics Support (CHES) is identified as a key stakeholder for policies with significant ethical dimensions (see CH 100-050, *Policy Development and Review*). While we encourage those developing policies to approach CHES for assistance at any point in the policy development or review process, contacting CHES early on in the process is often more helpful.

Developing a policy frequently involves making or shaping moral choices for other persons (including patients, health care providers, staff, etc.) and Capital Health. Policies are a primary way in which the integration and expression of Capital Health's values can occur. Key emphasis in ethics review is placed on understanding why this particular policy was written, what choices it makes explicit, why, and what the underlying values and ethical principles are or should be. Ethics input into the policy development or review process will help facilitate more ethically sensitive policies for Capital Health.

To help determine whether the policy you are working on could benefit from ethics input, please consider the following issues that include significant ethical dimensions (these are additional, complementary examples beyond what is provided in the *Policy Development and Review Policy*). If you are unsure about whether to seek ethics input, please contact CHES at 473-1564.

1. Policies that have a significant risk of harm to patients, families, staff, employees, learners, and/or volunteers (including physical, emotional, social, and spiritual harm).
2. Policies that restrict or limit a patient's treatment options, override a patient's or substitute decision maker's wishes, or restrict a patient's freedom of choice.
3. Policies that may have a negative impact on patient care for individual patients or groups of patients (on the basis of cultural or ethnic differences or age or social group or gender etc.).
4. Policies that deal with end of life care, or disposal/retention of human blood, tissue, organs, and remains.
5. Policies that deal with new or innovative technologies or treatments.
6. Policies that deal with allocation of scarce resources.
7. Policies that deal with privacy and confidentiality and/or disclosure of information related to patients, families, employees, physicians, learners, and/or volunteers.
8. Policies that involve commercial transactions related to public and/or private partnerships.