



Hôpital St-Boniface Hospital

**HEALTH CARE ETHICS SERVICE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025**

**A1153 – 409 Taché Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2H 2A6**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Health Care Ethics Service (HCES) was established in May 1993 as a resource to St. Boniface Hospital (SBH). Today, the HCES also serves as a resource to the health and service agencies of the Réseau Compassion Network (RCN):

- Abri Marguerite
- Actionmarguerite (St. Boniface and St. Vital Sites and St. Joseph's Residence)
- Aulneau Renewal Centre
- Centre de santé Saint-Boniface
- Centre Flavie
- Déspins Charities
- Marymound
- Sara Riel
- St. Amant
- St. Boniface Hospital
- Ste. Rose Health Centre
- Winnipegosis and District Health Centre
- Youville Centre

The Health Care Ethics Service is located at SBH and employs a clinical ethicist and administrative assistant. The Service offers a comprehensive ethics program that includes ethics education, policy/guideline review and development, committee leadership and support, research review and ethics consultation services for patients, residents, clients, clinical and administrative staff, governance and leadership personnel and other associates of the Réseau Compassion Network.

Katarina Lee-Ameduri is the Director of Ethics for the Réseau Compassion Network and Clinical Ethicist for St. Boniface Hospital and the Réseau Compassion Network. She is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Manitoba and an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Theology at St. Paul University in Ottawa. Katarina Lee-Ameduri is HEC-Certified.

Lydia Shawarsky is the Health Care Ethics Service Assistant and provides administrative and educational program support to the Health Care Ethics Service and the work of several Hospital committees including the Ethics Council and the Substance Use Working Group as well as the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Ethics Council.

## II. ETHICS EDUCATION

The HCES offers a variety of educational events for practicing health care professionals, Réseau Compassion Network and its Communities of Service boards, leadership and staff, students from various health care disciplines and the general public.

As well, the Clinical Ethicist participates in conference activities and staff development programs at the invitation of various health care organizations, special interest groups and associations of health care professionals.

### **Ethics Teaching**

From April 2024 to March 2025, Katarina Lee-Ameduri provided ethics teaching for the following University of Manitoba Programs:

- College of Pharmacy
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine, Section of Geriatrics
- Palliative Care Medicine Residents
- Pediatrics Residency Program
- Psychiatry Residency Program

### **Health Care Ethics Education Series**

For the fifth consecutive year, the HCES offered a series of twice monthly hour-long virtual didactic ethics education sessions and clinical case studies on a variety of topics. These sessions were regularly attended by health care providers from across Manitoba.

### **III. PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES**

April 03, 2024	University of Manitoba, Pharmacy College, Pharmacogenetics Course Teaching. Topic: Ethics Issues with Genetic Testing – Part 1
April 04, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 14. Topic: Disability Ethics
April 05, 2024	University of Manitoba, Pharmacy College, Pharmacogenetics Course Teaching. Topic: Ethics Issues with Genetic Testing – Part 2
April 09, 2024	Rehabilitation Centre for Children, Staff Education Session. Topic: Introduction to Health Care Ethics
April 10, 2024	WRHA Long Term Care Program, Therapeutic Recreation Professionals Communities of Practice Meeting. Topic: Therapeutic Relationships and Boundaries
April 11, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 15. Topic: Organizational Ethics
April 16, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
May 01, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatology Staff Education Session. Topic: Ethical Issues Surrounding Substance Use
May 02, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 16. Topic: Complex Discharges: Ethics Case Analysis

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May 03, 2024	University of Manitoba, Max Rady College of Medicine, Pediatrics Resident Program Ethics Elective Teaching. Topic: Ethical Decision Making in Pediatric Care
May 03, 2024	Red River College, Discipline of Professional Nursing 3, Law and Ethics Course Teaching. Topic: What's Ethics Got to Do with Me?
May 06, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Management Information Meeting. MAiD Refresher
May 08, 2024	Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Ethics Network Meeting. Topic: Difficult Discharges: Is Good Enough Care Good Enough?
May 09, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 17. Topic: Ethics and End-of-Life
May 13, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatology Staff Education Session. Topic: Ethical Issues Surrounding Substance Use
May 14, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Nursing Practice Council. Topic: Ethics Case Analysis. Case 1: Pediatrics & Ethics; Case 2: Surrogate Decision Maker Refusing Pain Management
May 14, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
May 15, 2024	University of Manitoba, Max Rady College of Medicine, Pediatrics Resident Program Ethics Elective Teaching. Topic: Ethical Decision Making in Pediatric Care
May 16, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatology Staff Education Session. Topic: Ethical Issues Surrounding Substance Use
June 06, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 18. Topic: Ethics of Organ Donation
June 11, 2024	Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Long Term Care Dietitians Practice Council Meeting. Topic: Ethics 101 and Ethics Case Analysis
June 13, 2024	Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Long Term Care Dietitians Practice Council Meeting. Topic: Ethics 101 and Ethics Case Analysis
June 13, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 19. Topic: Research Ethics
June 18, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
June 27, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 20. Topic: Ethics of Consent: Case Analysis
July 16, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101

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July 18, 2024	University of Manitoba, Palliative Care Residents Teaching. Topic: Presentation and Discussion of Journal Articles: (1) Eating Disorders and Palliative Care and (2) Palliative Care Approach in Psychiatry – Clinical Implications
August 20, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
August 27, 2024	University of Manitoba, Family Medicine PGY1 Residents Teaching. Topic: Ethics for Family Medicine
September 12, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 1. Topic: Introduction to Health Care Ethics
September 13, 2024	Southern Health Ethics Committee Workshop. Topic: Ethics 101 and Ethical Decision-Making Framework practical application
September 16, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Ethics Orientation for new site Physicians. Topic: Introduction to Health Care Ethics
September 17, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
September 19, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 2. Topic: Advance Care Planning
September 19, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Ethics Orientation for new site Physicians. Topic: Introduction to Health Care Ethics
October 05, 2024	Caritas Canada Western Conference for Social Justice. Theme: Reaping Our Rights. Topic: Responding and Restoring Dignity: A Conversation on Harm Reduction and Supervised Consumption – Catholic Bioethics and Pastoral Outreach
October 17, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 4. Topic: Ethics Issues in Long Term Care: Case Analysis
October 22, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
November 04, 2024	St. Paul's Hospital, W. F. Mitchell Bioethics Seminar (Saskatoon, SK). Topic: Complex Patients and Discharges: What Ought We Do When Every Option Feels Ethically Problematic?
November 07, 2024	University of Manitoba, Palliative Care Residents Teaching. Topic: Presentation and Discussion of 3 Journal Articles on Advance Requests for MAiD
November 07, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 6. Topic: Ethics and Long-Term Care

November 07, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Social Work Students Teaching. Topic: Ethics in Health Care
November 08, 2024	Second Annual Health Care Ethics Workshop. Theme: Going the Distance: From Hospital to Home – the Ethical Complexities of Discharges. Topic: Complex Patients and Discharges: What Ought We Do When Every Option Feels Ethically Problematic?
November 14, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 7. Topic: Ethics Issues in Acute Care: Case Analysis
December 04, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, Complex Case Rounds Mini-Lecture with Dr. Andrew Fagan. Topic: Ethical Considerations in Complex Endocarditis Cases
December 05, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 9. Topic: Research Ethics
December 17, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
January 09, 2025	Ethics Education Series Session 11. Topic: Ethics and Mental Health
January 21, 2025	St. Boniface Hospital, General Hospital Orientation for New Employees. Topic: Ethics 101
January 22, 2025	Ethics Education Series Session 13. Topic: Ethics Issues in Community Care: Case Analysis
January 23, 2025	St. Boniface Hospital Ethics Council and Health Care Ethics Service Half-Day Workshop. Theme: Navigating Faith-Based Practices at End-of-Life. Panelist.
January 23, 2025	Réseau Compassion Network, Information Session for Community Member CEOs on Health Care Ethics. Topic: Launch of RCN Health Care Ethics Module for Board Formation
January 27, 2025	St. Boniface Hospital, Board of Directors. Four-Part Presentation. Topic 1. Ethics Overview 2. Ethics Initiatives 3. Catholic Hot Topics 4. Ethics Hot Topics
January 27, 2025	St. Boniface College, Nursing Students Ethics Class. Topic: Ethics 101
January 30, 2025	University of Manitoba, Palliative Care Residents Teaching. Topic: Presentation and Discussion of 2 Journal Articles 1. A Case study of Muslims' perspectives of expanded terminal sedation: Addressing the elephant in the room 2. The influence of spirituality on decision-making in palliative care outpatients: a cross-sectional study

February 01, 2025	St. Ignatius Parish, Presentation and Panel Discussion with Prof. Mary J. Shariff, Anna-Marie Bogdan, RN and Fr. Sam Argenziano. Topic: Advance Medical Care Planning and Surrogate Decision Making
February 04, 2025	Catholic Health Association of Manitoba, National Catholic Health Care Week Webinar. Topic: Your Voice, Your Values: A Catholic Perspective on Advance Care Planning and Health Directives
February 06, 2025	Ethics Education Series Session 14. Topic: Disability Ethics
February 24, 2025	University of Manitoba, Max Rady College of Medicine, Psychiatry (PGY4) Resident Program Ethics Elective Teaching. Topic: Ethical Decision Making in Psychiatry
February 25, 2025	Ethics Education Series Session 16. Topic: Ethics Issues in Long Term Care: Case Analysis
March 01, 2025	St. Ignatius Parish, Presentation and Panel Case Study Discussion with Prof. Mary J. Shariff. Topic: Medical Assistance in Dying
March 03, 2025	Ethics Education Series Session 17. Topic: Ethics of Organ Donation
March 10, 2025	Ste. Rose Health Centre, Winnipegosis & District Health Centre and Prairie Mountain Health Virtual Ethics Education Session for Staff. Topic: Ethics and Resource Allocation
March 26, 2025	Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Policy Committee Meeting. Topic: Ethics and Policy Development
March 31, 2025	University of Manitoba, Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Geriatric Medicine Educational Rounds. Topic: Dignity of Risk – Navigating New Relationships for Those Living with Dementia

#### IV. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Clinical Ethicist participated in the following committees and working groups during this reporting period:

##### **St. Boniface Hospital**

- Care of the Deceased Person Committee (Member 2020-present)
- Ethics Council (Chair 2019-present)
- Leadership Team (Member 2018-present)
- NICU FI Care and Cultural Safety Committee (Member 2019-present)
- Policy Council (Member 2020-present; Co-Chair March 2025)
- Research Review Committee (Member 2018-present)
- Substance Use Working Group (Co-Chair 2018-present)



**Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)**

- Ethics Council (Co-Chair 2019-March 2024)
- Policy Committee (Member March 2025-present)

**Safe in St. B Working Group**

- Working Group (Member 2020-present)

**Catholic Health Alliance of Canada**

- Ethics Network (Member 2018-present)

**Canadian Bioethics Society of Canada (CBS)**

- Member

**SBH Ethics Council**

Chaired by Katarina Lee-Ameduri, Clinical Ethicist, the Ethics Council addresses ongoing ethical issues and policies affecting SBH. Ethics education and review of clinical cases is provided at all monthly meetings. The Council membership is multidisciplinary and representative of the Hospital community. Administrative support to the Council is provided the Health Care Ethics Service.

During this reporting period, the Ethics Council reviewed and providing ethical feedback on the following policies:

- SBH Sterilization (formerly Tubal Ligation) Policy (VI-30)
- WRHA/SBH “Restraints Minimization – Acute Care Facilities (Adult) (VI-560)” Policy
- SBH “Responding to Inquiries and Requests for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) (VI-1010)” Policy

**SBH Substance Use Working Group**

Providing compassionate health care for patients with complex addiction challenges while maintaining a safe workplace environment strongly reflects the values of St. Boniface Hospital. Since its formation in 2018, the Working Group meets monthly to support patients and front-line staff through ongoing education and delivery of Hospital-wide harm reduction initiatives and programs. Co-chaired by Katarina Lee-Ameduri and Sarah Gilchrist, the Working Group maintains working partnerships with Main Street Project, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and St. Boniface Street Links as it continues to address the multifaceted clinical and organizational concerns affecting the care of this patient population. Support to this Working Group and its initiatives is provided by the Health Care Ethics Service.

**V. ETHICS CONSULTATIONS**

The Health Care Ethics Service offers ongoing education in ethics with the goal of helping employees and health care professionals develop skills and confidence to competently recognize and address ethical concerns with patients, families and other members of the health care team. To complement this work, the Health Care Ethics Service provides a consultation service. Consultations are organized in four broad categories: clinical, research, organizational ethics and education.

During the period of April 01, 2024 to March 31, 2025, 83 clinical ethics consultations were provided to patients, residents, clients, families and health care professionals associated with the Réseau Compassion Network. The HCES was also externally consulted by the WRHA, other health care facilities

in Winnipeg, regional health authorities in Manitoba, as well as, national health care organizations and professional societies. Core themes included:

- Advance care planning
- Alleged patient abuse by family member
- Care of patients with behavioral issues
- Complex patient discharges
- End-of-life and withdrawal of care
- Familial differences regarding patient care plans
- Family conflicts involving visitation privileges
- Goals of care
- Harm reduction
- Impaired patients and issues of consent
- Imperiled pregnancies and early inductions
- Identification of surrogate decision-makers
- Inequity of care
- Infant Adoption
- Informed Consent
- Intimate relations between residents with developmental disabilities
- LOA Management
- Moral distress among front-line staff
- Organ donation/transplant consent issues
- Parental rights in making medical decisions for minors
- Patient billings
- Patient privacy
- Patient right to refuse treatment
- Questions re processes of infant loss (burial/cremation) and parental consent
- Risk of patient self-harm/suicide attempts
- Safety vs. autonomous decision-making
- Witnessing of patient signature on legal documents

## **VI. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

The Clinical Ethicist holds membership in the following organizations:

- Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS)
- Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Ethics Network

## **VII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

During this reporting period, Katarina Lee-Ameduri attended the following conferences and educational events to further her professional development.

April 18, 2024	Réseau Compassion Network Speaker Series. Presenter Allison Needham. Topic: Positive Disruption: Anti-Racist Leadership
April 19, 2024	Réseau Compassion Network Full Day Education Session. Facilitator: Allison Needham. Topic: Positive Disruption: Anti-Racist Leadership

May 01, 2024	University of Manitoba, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, John McKenzie Lecture in Medical Ethics and Professionalism. Presenter: Christy Simpson. Topic: Rural Health Care Ethics: Taking a Different Perspective
May 08, 2024	Catholic Health Alliance of Canada Ethics Network Meeting (Winnipeg, MB)
May 08-10, 2024	Catholic Health Alliance of Canada National Conference (Winnipeg, MB). Theme: Get to the Heart of It: Being, Caring Doing – Meaningful Connections and Actions
May 21, 2024	Réseau Compassion Network Team Building Day
May 23, 2024	Health Sciences Centre, Staff Education Session. Topic: Harm Reduction and Moral Distress
May 23, 2024	Manitoba Human Rights Commission Training Session for Health Care Professionals. Topic: General Human Rights Training for Managers
May 29-31, 2024	International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation (ICCEC) and the Canadian Bioethics Society (CBS) Annual Conference. Theme: Partnering with Patients and Communities in Health Care Ethics
June 07, 2024	Réseau Compassion Network Speaker Series. Presenter Christine Vanagas. Topic: Doctrine of Discovery on the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island and its impact on Truth and Reconciliation
June 20, 2024	Réseau Compassion Network Annual General Meeting and Banquet. Winnipeg, MB
September 10, 2024	St. Boniface Hospital All-Day Workshop for Management. Topic: Anti-Racism Training for Managers.
October 15, 2024	Réseau Compassion Network Team Building Workshop. Topic: Managing Conflict
October 24, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 5. Presenter: Cara Corvino. Topic: Relational Ethics
October 31, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 3. Presenter: Cara Corvino. Topic: Ethics and Harm Reduction
November 08, 2024	Second Annual Health Care Ethics Workshop. Theme: Going the Distance: From Hospital to Home – the Ethical Complexities of Discharges
December 12, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 10. Presenter: Cara Corvino. Topic: Integrational Ethics

January 23, 2025	St. Boniface Hospital Ethics Council and Health Care Ethics Service Half-Day Workshop. Theme: Navigating Faith-Based Practices at End-of-Life
January 29, 2025	Réseau Compassion Network (RCN), the Catholic Network for Women's Equality (CNWE – Western region), the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM) and the Grey Nuns (SGM) Public Event. Presenter: Sr. Elizabeth Davis (RSM), a Sister of Mercy of Newfoundland. Topic: Update on Synod of Synodality at the Vatican held in October 2023 and 2024.
February 13, 2025	Ethics Education Series Session 15. Presenter: Cara Corvino. Topic: Ethics and Home Care
March 13, 2024	Ethics Education Series Session 18. Presenter: Cara Corvino. Topic: Ethics and Pediatric Decision Making

### **VIII. STUDENT SUPERVISION AND MENTORING**

Katarina Lee-Ameduri provided mentorship and guidance to individuals seeking to further their knowledge of clinical ethics as part of their coursework, ethics rotation or ethics practicum requirements as well as job shadowing opportunities.

#### **Transition to Residency (TTR) Ethics Elective**

The Health Care Ethics Service developed and supervised an ethics elective practicum for five fourth-year medical students from the University of Manitoba:

- Aisha Haji Hussein
- Ashley Monture
- Graham Casey
- Sam Krishnan
- William Kong

During a three-week period, March 25 – April 12, 2024, the above-noted students attended daily in-person lectures on a variety of ethics topics provided by the clinical ethicist followed by a discussion period. Students also had the opportunity to participate in the clinical ethics consultation process, discuss clinical cases and attend several ethics education sessions organized by the HCES and attend meetings of the SBH Ethics Council and SBH Research Review Committee. Students were also tasked to deliver a presentation on an ethics topic of their choosing on the final day of the elective.

#### **Clinical Ethics Mentorship**

During this reporting period, the clinical ethicist also provided mentorship and guidance and job shadowing opportunities to:

May 03, 2024

Dr. Saheba Bajwa, Pediatrics Resident, Max Rady College of Medicine, University of Manitoba

May 15, 2024

Dr. Allennie Lopez, Pediatrics Resident, Max Rady College of Medicine, University of Manitoba

August 21, 2024

Ashley Hebert, Masters of Nursing Student, College of Nursing, University of Manitoba. Ethics Job Shadowing

October 29, 2024

Ashley Hebert, Masters of Nursing Student, College of Nursing, University of Manitoba. Ethics Job Shadowing

November 12, 2024

Ashley Hebert, Masters of Nursing Student, College of Nursing, University of Manitoba. Ethics Job Shadowing

January 30, 2025

Rev. Emmanuel Uzoh, Chaplain, Spiritual Health Department, St. Boniface Hospital. Ethics Job Shadowing

February 24, 2025

Dr. Camille Glidden, PGY4 Psychiatry Resident, Max Rady College of Medicine, University of Manitoba

February 25, 2025

Rev. Emmanuel Uzoh, Chaplain, Spiritual Health Department, St. Boniface Hospital, Ethics Job Shadowing

## **IX. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **Health Care Ethics Service Website**

The Health Care Ethics Service now has an official website <https://www.healthcareethics.ca/> for the purpose creating ethics awareness, sharing knowledge and a means of connectivity for health care staff. It went live in September 2024.

The website content is presented under three main headings.

Ethics Education – contains a listing of ethics education opportunities to further learning in clinical ethics and ethical decision making appropriate for clinical and non-clinical staff as well as interested family members and patients. This section also contains easily accessible video recordings on a variety of ethics topics.

Ethics Consultation – ethical decisions are made every day and most times we do not need assistance in making these decisions. However, when conflicts or difficult questions arise in health care, an ethics consultation may be of help. This section contains information on what types of consultations are available through the Health Care Ethics Service.

Ethics Resources – contains information on a number of ethics resources and tools:

- Code of Ethics
- Principlism
- Health Care Directives
- Health Care Proxy
- Resource Allocation

- Harm Reduction
- Ethics Frameworks

The Health Care Ethics Service website may also be accessed through the St. Boniface Hospital Internet page under the heading of Patient Care or on the Hospital's Intranet page under Departments.

#### **IX. HEALTH CARE ETHICS SERVICE RESOURCES**

The Health Care Ethics Service maintains an extensive collection of books, journals, DVDs, reprints and articles relating to topics in healthcare ethics. These resources may be accessed by students, employees and medical staff associated with the Réseau Compassion Network.

#### **X. CLOSING COMMENTS**

The Health Care Ethics Service would like to thank the Réseau Compassion Network for its continued moral and financial support as well as the senior leadership of St. Boniface Hospital for their ongoing backing and guidance.