

POLICY 1.28	Ethical Decision-Making Framework	DOMAIN Governance and Ethics
ELT Sponsor: Vice President Mission, Ethics & Spirituality Policy Lead(s): Clinical Ethicist		Date Approved: September 16, 2025
		Date Effective: September 17, 2025
		Date of Next Review: September 2030

For further information please contact covenantpolicy@covenanthealth.ca

NOTE: The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definition section

Policy Statement:

As a Catholic health care organization, Covenant Health is guided by the fundamental principles and values as outlined in the [Health Ethics Guide](#), published by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (Ottawa, 2012), and approved by the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops.

The Health Ethics Guide is Covenant Health's primary resource for ethical discernment and decision-making, upon which the organization's Code of Conduct (Our Commitment to Ethical Integrity) and the Covenant Health Mission Discernment Tool are based.

Purpose Statement:

To establish Covenant Health's ethical framework for all ethics-related clinical, administrative, and governance matters.

Applicability:

All clinical and administrative leaders are responsible to inform their decision-making through critical reflection and application of the Health Ethics Guide, and secondarily, by Our Commitment to Ethical Integrity, and to promote their use throughout the organization.

It is the responsibility of the Covenant Health Clinical Ethicists in collaboration with local site ethics team representatives to provide ethics consultation services (including case debriefings, coaching, education, and information). After-hours and weekend requests for urgent clinical ethics services are the responsibility of the on-call ethics consultant.

Organizational Ethics consults are the responsibility of the Vice President, Mission, Ethics and Spirituality. Consults related to organizational ethics issues may be led and/or supported by the Corporate Director, Diversity and Ethics, and/or the Covenant Health Clinical Ethicists.

Responsibility:

All Covenant Health facilities, staff, medical staff, students, volunteers and any other persons acting on behalf of Covenant Health.

Principles:

Ethics is a way of life that examines who we ought to be and what we ought to do in light of who we say we are. Grounded in the traditions of our founding Sisters and the evolving ethical reflection of

Ethical Decision-Making Framework	Effective Date September 17, 2025	Policy Number 1.28	Page 2 of 2
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------

the Catholic Church, Covenant Health seeks to bring the best of our tradition and lived experience to ethical issues. Each day we make important personal, clinical, and organizational issues. As an organization, our ethical reflection takes place within the context of our mission, vision, and values.

Procedure

1. For all ethics consultation requests (clinical and organizational) call the Covenant Health Ethics and Discernment Centre at 780.342.8021 or email EthicsCentre@covenanthealth.ca
2. For general ethics inquiries or to discuss an ethical concern with a local ethics team member, contact the Covenant Health Ethics and Discernment Centre at 780.342.8021, or toll free at 1-855-497-5353.

Relevant Covenant Health Policy and Policy Support Documents:	
A.	Policies:
B.	Procedures:
C.	Guidelines:
D.	Job aids: Health Ethics Guide Our Commitment to Ethical Integrity (Code of Conduct) Covenant Health Mission Discernment Tool
E.	Standards:
Keywords:	
References: Ethics at Covenant Health	
Past Revisions: October 13, 2022 – <i>previously numbered I-30</i> June 8, 2018 January 17, 2014 December 1, 2010	