

 <p>BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD HAUORA A TOI</p> <p>CLINICAL ETHICS PROTOCOL</p>	<p>CLINICAL ETHICS - STANDARDS</p>	<p>Policy 2.1.6 Protocol 1</p>
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STANDARDS TO BE MET

1. When an ethical dilemma involves a patient / client, Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) employees must protect the patient / client's identity throughout the process and may only release a patient / client's identity to prevent or lessen a specific threat to public health or public safety, or the life or health of the individual concerned or another individual.
2. When presented with an ethical dilemma, staff should consult with peers, supervisors, unit managers or service managers. Staff may also seek advice from professional bodies / organisations on ethical issues, however must maintain client confidentiality and should then discuss the issue with his / her line manager.
3. If a situation progresses, or cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of all, then the Chief Medical Advisor / Medical Director must be notified, who may use external organisations / services for advice.
4. The BOPDHB Clinical Ethics Committee may also be contacted at any stage in the process however this should be done by, or in consultation with, the Medical Director.
5. Employees should use the process outlined in Appendix 1.

REFERENCES

- [New Zealand Nurses Organisation, Code of Ethics, 2010](#)

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Policy 2.1.6 Clinical Ethics
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Clinical Ethics Committee Terms of Reference

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<p>Protocol Steward: General Counsel</p>	<p>Authorised by: Medical Director</p>	

Appendix 1: Ethical Dilemma Resolution Flowchart

