

## ST. JOSEPH'S GENERAL HOSPITAL

<i>Committee:</i>	Ethics
<i>Chair:</i>	Joan James
<i>Committee Members:</i>	Dr. Don Blacklock (to June 2005) Gordon Carter Deb Caughy Tammy Colling Sheila Cruikshank (to March 2006) Heather Dalziel (from April 2006) Dr. Barb Fehlau Dr. Don Fockler (from October 2005) Lorraine Gilbert Shirley Hovind Toby Krell Lisa Murphy Ron Philip Michael Pontus Dr. Jonathan Reggler Anne Roberts Dr. Trace Thomas

The Ethics Committee has had an active year. We started the year by co-sponsoring a public evening presentation by Dr. Clement Persaud of Victoria who spoke on stem cell research and the retrieval of stem cells from cord blood.

Considerable work was done on developing a DNR policy for our hospital. A draft of this policy has been forwarded to the MAC and the Nursing Practice and Patient Care Management Committees for their review. We also reviewed changes to the Organ Donation Policy.

In September, Dr. Catherine Luke of the VIHA Advance Directives Project gave an informative presentation which was open for staff to attend.

The committee reviewed, and approved as ethically sound, the following research projects:

- Can Telehealth Offer Practical Alternatives for the Delivery of Healthcare Services? (BC Cancer Agency).
- Rural Maternity Service Closures: Implications for Referral Hospitals (Drs. Jude Kornelsen and Shiraz Moola).
- A Comparison of the IVIg Usage in BC and Alberta (University of Alberta).
- Care with Compassion Survey (Masters Degree project – Toby Krell).

We watched and discussed a two part video titled “Sharing Bad News.”

Several case studies, which reflected ethical concerns of staff, were brought forward by Gordon Carter. Topics of discussion involved:

- issues that arise out of workload;
- concern for patients who don't have a regular doctor;
- the role and influence on our Ethics Committee.

As always, the frank and open discussions that took place, regardless of the topic, were thought provoking and informative.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their willing participation. I would also like to thank Gordon Carter, whose dedication and enthusiastic leadership is appreciated by all. His constant involvement with the hospital staff and the ethical issues they face has brought vital relevance to the work of the committee.

Thank you also to Corrie Marles, our recording secretary, for her faithful work for this committee.

July 17, 2006

Joan James  
Chair