



Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts  
2010 Ethics Forum "On the Road"  
An Invitation to Federation Members

**What:** Sixty minute sessions, originally presented at previous annual New England Hospice & Palliative Care Education Conferences, offered at your sites for interdisciplinary care teams and/or peer networking groups. Descriptions are included below.

**Where:** Either at your site or a neighboring one – Presenters are willing to travel anywhere in MA

**When:** Negotiated with presenters based on availability. A minimum of 15 participants is required for each workshop. Agencies hosting a workshop could invite other members of their community (i.e. professional partners, volunteers, board members, etc.) to make the education available to as many people as possible.

**How:** Express your interest by faxing the form (781-297-7345) on the reverse side to Rev. Dr. Gordon Postill, Spiritual Counselor, Old Colony Hospice, Chair of the Federation's Ethics Forum.

**Cost:** A \$100 check per workshop payable to the Federation, given to the workshop presenter as the workshop is about to begin. Once the details of a workshop have been set, the presenters need to have received some form of written confirmation about the workshop's time/place at least two weeks prior to the presentation.

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### **End-of-Life Ethics 101: A Beginning Framework**

*Rev. Dr. Gordon Postill, D.Min., BCC, Spiritual Counselor, Old Colony Hospice, Randolph; Chair, Ethics Committee, Hospice and Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts*

Using case studies, this interactive workshop provides a basic introduction to healthcare ethics related to end of life care. Participants will learn how to identify an ethical dilemma and weigh bioethical principles, contextual factors and vested interests of involved parties in its resolution. Rev. Dr. Postill will offer some basics about ethics committees and how workplace culture can affirm or undermine attempts to address and resolve ethical dilemmas.

### **End-of-Life Ethics 201: A Team Approach for Withdrawal of Treatment**

*Rev. Dr. Gordon Postill, D.Min., BCC, Spiritual Counselor, Old Colony Hospice, Randolph; Chair, Ethics Committee, Hospice and Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts*

Using a complex case study involving the withdrawal of a feeding tube, participants will learn how to effectively address and (attempt to) resolve ethical issues in a systematic manner. This highly interactive workshop will enable participants to move beyond the basics related to end-of-life healthcare ethics in order to increase their understanding and hands-on expertise in dealing with ethical issues, concerns, and dilemmas. *\*\*Participants will benefit most from this workshop if they already have a basic understanding of some of the bioethical principals and contextual factors related to the end-of-life ethics.*

### **Ethical and Clinical Issues in Withdrawing Treatment**

*Rosemary Ryan, MD, Associate Medical Director, VNA Hospice Care, Woburn; Co-Chair, Faulkner Hospital Ethics Committee, Boston*

The speaker will outline a process for ethical and clinical decisions to support patients who wish to have treatment withdrawn or withheld. Using case histories, participants will explore how hospice and palliative programs can meet physical, psychosocial and spiritual challenges and implement their decisions into an effective plan of care.

### **Advance Care Planning with ICDS and Pacemakers: Ethical Implications**

*Kathleen K. Davis, PhD, LICSW, Director Psychosocial and Bereavement, Chair of Clinical Ethics, Hospice and Palliative Care of Cape Cod, Hyannis*

Using a case-based discussion, participants will explore the different ethical and medical implications of implanted cardiac devices and pacemakers. How ought these medical treatments be discussed for the plan of care? What ethical tools do we have to help guide those discussions? This workshop will help participants become more familiar with growing concerns as Hospices admit more and more people with ICDS and pacemakers.

### **Scenarios for Withdrawing Treatment**

*Rosemary Ryan, MD, Associate Medical Director, VNA Hospice Care, Woburn; Co-Chair, Faulkner Hospital Ethics Committee, Boston*

Many interventions and treatments are available to support patients that are intended to, and can, provide a significant increase in the quality of life. For most, there comes a time when the intervention may result in greater burden than benefit. Health care providers often assist the patient or surrogate in making decisions to withhold or withdraw these interventions. Following a brief presentation of ethical and clinical issues, participants will role play a scenario presenting patients wishing to withdraw (or withhold) treatment interventions. **\*\*Participants will benefit most from this workshop if they already have a basic understanding of some of the bioethical principals and contextual factors related to the end-of-life ethics.**

### **Palliative Sedation: What, Why, When**

*Rosemary Ryan, MD, Associate Medical Director, VNA Hospice Care, Woburn; Co-Chair, Faulkner Hospital Ethics Committee, Boston*

Palliative sedation offers an option for providing comfort when aggressive attempts to provide relief from intractable symptoms have failed despite using the full scope of interdisciplinary expertise. Participants will develop a working knowledge of the ethical and clinical issues related to palliative sedation and tools to use in their organizations to develop the policy, procedure and capability of offering palliative sedation for those patients who need and opt for this treatment.

### **Moral Distress in the ICU**

*Judith Cronin-Flaherty, RN, MA, MSN, Admissions Coordinator Hallmark Health Hospice, Malden*

This session will address current clinical issues in critical care that create moral distress in the intensive care unit (ICU). The speakers will clarify the role of the hospice clinician when introducing palliative care to hospital staff caring for a patient who will not survive the ICU.

### **Ethical Competence Across Cultures**

*Judith Cronin-Flaherty, RN, MA, MSN, Admissions Coordinator Hallmark Health Hospice, Malden*

As end-of-life care providers serve an increasingly diverse population, the need to understand religious and cultural beliefs that factor so significantly into a patient's and family's end-of-life decision making becomes crucial. Ms. Cronin will guide participants in becoming sensitive to various cultures' processes of ethical decision making.

### **Ethical Decision Making at the End of Life**

*Judith Cronin-Flaherty, RN, MA, MSN, Admissions Coordinator Hallmark Health Hospice, Malden*

Using a case-based discussion, participants will explore the complex issues that can occur when attempting to resolve ethical dilemmas involving life-sustaining treatments. The participants will present core issues involving culture, the role of family, and the role of the healthcare proxy. The Ethics Decision Making Process Reference Sheet will provide a method to identify the challenges for the clinician trying to provide optimal ethical care for the patient who is being presented.

### **Providers Use of Language at the End of Life: Tool or Sword?**

*Judith Cronin-Flaherty, RN, MA, MSN, Admissions Coordinator Hallmark Health Hospice, Malden*

This session is designed to look at the potential for language to be an effective, compassionate communication tool or a brutal sword. Using scenes from the Movie "WIT", which follows an English professor through the last eight months of her life, discussion will focus on the language used to tell the patient that she has a terminal illness. Participants should be prepared to discuss the principle of "Truth Telling". This workshop will help professionals examine the use of language in their own practices.

### **Ethics Forums Learning Objectives**

- 1.) Enhance the understanding of ethical principles related to end of life care.
- 2.) Facilitate the process of ethical decision - making by care teams.
- 3.) Apply ethical principles to daily practice in hospice and palliative care.
- 4.) Explore components of complex ethical dilemmas.



H & PCFM Ethics Forum "On the Road"  
Interest Form

Please complete this form and fax this form to discuss scheduling workshops. (You may choose any number of these.)

Fee for each workshop: \$100

- \_\_\_\_\_ End-of-Life Ethics 101: A Beginning
- \_\_\_\_\_ End-of-Life Ethics 201: A Team Approach for Withdrawal of Treatment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ethical and Clinical Issues in Withdrawing Treatment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advance Care Planning with ICDS and Pacemakers: Ethical Implications
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scenarios for Withdrawing Treatment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Palliative Sedation: What, Why, When
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moral Distress in the ICU
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ethical Competence Across Cultures
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ethical Decision Making at the End of Life
- \_\_\_\_\_ Providers Use of Language at the End of Life: Tool or Sword?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Additional workshops are available and the details, including the fee, can be negotiated with the presenter. For more information about these additional workshops or any other aspects of the Ethics Forum program, please call Rev. Dr. Gordon Postill at 781-341-4145.

\*\*Please fax this form with your workshop choice(s) to Rev. Dr. Gordon Postill at 781-297-7345.

Dates can be discussed once your workshop choice(s) has been indicated.