

How we keep our patients safe



Fact:

HHS teams currently follow the organization's process to identify, address and record ethics-related issues.

We do the following on a daily basis:

- Use HHS's hospitals Mission, Vision and Values as the foundations for building ethical actions, systems and culture
- Conduct clinical practice, research and business by complying with laws/regulations governing business and provision of healthcare (e.g. Healthcare Consent Act)
- Follow hospital policies that guide practice and decision-making (e.g. HHS Code of Ethics, Patient Rights and Responsibilities, Privacy and Confidentiality)
- Professional disciplines follow their respective college standards of practice
- Advocate to ensure patient preferences are respected in treatment and care decisions
- Conduct patient/family meetings to review the plan of care and resolve communication issues or misunderstandings
- Document patient/family discussions, issues, options, recommendations and care decisions moving forward

To help guide you, a new Clinical Ethics framework is being developed. Details coming soon

See over for our current practices in area of research related activities, protocols and standards

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Fact:

HHS currently engages in research activities/services that meet applicable **research and ethics** protocols and standards

- HHS recognizes that research is an essential component of the provision and enhancement of excellent, evidence based patient care. All research studies require Research Ethics and Medical Advisory Committee approval before any research projects can start at HHS.
- The primary mandate of the HHS Research Ethics Committee (REC) is 'The protection and safety of the public who are participating in clinical research trials'.
- The REC reviews research to ensure that people will not be disadvantaged by research participation. The rights, safety and well-being of the clinical trial participants are the most important consideration, even above the interests of science.
- The basic ethical principles of HHS' REC are to do no harm (non-maleficence), to disclose all facts, to communicate truthfully (veracity) and to conduct valid research.
- The REC acts in compliance with all laws, policies, standards and guidelines governing human research, which are applicable to a submitted research study. Including, but not limited to the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, The World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki and The Personal Health Information Act.

The HHS website is being developed to give access to research policies and procedures, REC application for review forms, guidelines, meeting dates and deadlines, and any important updates