

Terms of Reference Ethics Committee

Purpose:

The Committee will provide ethics reflection and guidance on issues of interest to the CFPC and family physicians, including CFPC policies, strategies and priorities.

Goals:

1. To define and address ethical issues of concern to the CFPC and family physicians. This may include development of policy.
2. To provide advice to the Executive and Board on ethical issues related to its strategies and priorities.
3. To comment from an ethics perspective on existing and planned CFPC policy.
4. To consult and collaborate with external organizations and groups on healthcare ethics issues of relevance to family medicine.
5. To promote ethics education including development of educational resources.
6. To advise the CFPC on a Code of Ethics.

Time frame: On-going.

Type of committee: Standing.

Accountability

- The Committee on Ethics is accountable to the CFPC board of directors for fulfilling its purpose and achieving its goals, within the resources budgeted for this area of endeavour.

Criteria for choice of members and method for recruitment

Voting members:

- Chair – appointed by CFPC board of directors
- One representative appointed by the Section of Residents
- Four members appointed by the Committee chair, such that the various geographic regions of Canada are represented.
- One lay member or College member with academic training and/or other recognized qualification or experience in medical ethics.
- Length of term: Three years, renewable for one term with the exception of the representatives appointed by the Section of Residents

Expertise required:

- It would be of importance that the members of the committee have an interest in or familiarity with family medicine ethics and bioethics if they are to be effective contributors to committee discussions and to help with analysis of policy and strategies of the organization.

Observers:

- One observer each from the Canadian Medical Association and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Staff support required and justification

- Support to be provided by one or more senior staff Directors as determined by the Board of Directors.