

# ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

## *HELP for the Most Difficult Health Care Decisions*

Capital Region Medical Center is committed to meeting patient needs, delivering healthcare service with skill, compassion and respect. Today many options are available for treatment—options that should involve you, your family, your physician and others participating in your hospital care.

We know that making decisions in the midst of a health crisis can be especially difficult.

### *A few examples of healthcare issues that require hard decisions:*

- Whether to **withhold** or **withdraw** life supporting systems.
- Whether to **begin, continue or end** specific treatment options.
- How to **establish the decision-making process** if you are unable to make decisions for yourself.
- How to **interpret a patient’s advance directive** document and how to best **honor a patient’s wishes** as presented in an advance directive.

### *The Ethics Committee can help by:*

Making referrals to resource persons who can help you answer specific questions.

Supporting those who are going through the decision-making process.

Providing the opportunity to present and explore differing viewpoints.

Helping to reach consensus when conflict or disagreements arise.

Providing the opportunity to complete an Advance Directive/Health Care Power of Attorney.

### *Committed to the Community*

As a part of Capital Region’s mission to improve the health of our community, the Ethics Committee provides an annual spring educational opportunity for the people we serve. Recent topics have included “Advanced Directives” and “The Ethics of Managed Care”. You may suggest topics that you feel would be beneficial for our community by contacting a member of the Ethics Committee.

### *Capital Region Medical Center Ethics Committee Members Include:*

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Chaplains
- Social Workers
- Attorneys
- Clergy
- Psychology Counselors
- Community Members

**You may request the assistance from the Capital Region Medical Center Ethics Committee 24 hours a day by calling (573) 632-5000 and ask for the House Supervisor. A committee member will contact you.**