Case Reviews
The chair of the Medical Ethics Committee decides which cases are appropriate for review by the Committee. Once a case is accepted for review, the Medical Ethics Committee discusses it at its next scheduled meeting unless the urgency of the case warrants a meeting before that time. Emergency cases are reviewed by the Committee within 24-48 hours. Following all case reviews, the Chair of the Medical Ethics Committee or designee will notify all parties involved of the committee’s recommendations.

Meetings
The Medical Ethics Committee meets quarterly.

St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center
1726 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303
www.stmgb.org

St. Vincent Hospital
835 S. Van Buren Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301
www.stvincenthospital.org
“In a time of new medical discoveries, rapid technological developments, and social change, what is new can either be an opportunity for genuine advance in human culture, or it can lead to policies and actions that are contrary to the true dignity and vocation of the human person. In consultation with medical professionals, church leaders review these developments, judge them according to the principles of right reason and the ultimate standard of revealed truth, and offer authoritative teaching and guidance about the moral and pastoral responsibilities entailed by the Christian faith.”

Taken from the General Introduction of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services Fourth Edition, Revised 2009

**Background**

In 1987 and 1988, St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospital, respectively, began a Medical Ethics Committee. In 2009 the hospitals formed one joint committee. The Medical Ethics Committee is an advisory committee that deals with ethical issues of health care within the framework of the hospitals’ mission and philosophy and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Medical Ethics Committee is threefold:

- To serve as a resource in the development, review, revision and implementation of policies that have medical ethical implications.
- To provide a consultation process, support, and information to those assisting patients and families.
- To further education in healthcare ethics among the members of the Ethics Committee, medical and hospital staffs, and the community served by the hospitals.

**Referrals**

Referrals to the Medical Ethics Committee are open to patients, families, hospital staff and physicians seeking guidance on medical ethical situations.

**How to Access**

You may access the Medical Ethics Committee in one of four ways by contacting:

- Cinde Becker, Pastoral Care Director
  St. Mary’s & St. Vincent Hospitals
  498-4284 or 433-8163
- Dr. Greg Cooley, St. Vincent Hospital Ethics Chairperson for St. Mary’s & St. Vincent Hospitals
  433-8615
- Paula Hafeman, Assistant Administrator
  St. Vincent Hospital
  433-8203
- Tom Bayer, Chief Operating Officer
  St. Vincent Hospital
  433-8155
- Larry Connors, Chief Operating Officer
  St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center
  498-4601
- Any Member of the Ethics Committee

**Committee Membership**

The multi-disciplinary Medical Ethics Committee consists of physicians, nurses, chaplains, and a representative from administration, case management, pastoral care, Unity Hospice and Palliative Care, and the local community.