Decisions to provide or withhold life support are made every day across Canada. It remains unclear who has a legal right to decide whether to withdraw life support. If substitute decision makers (SDMs) insist on life support that doctors consider medically inappropriate, doctors face potential legal liability no matter what they do. But, if doing so is medically inappropriate, a doctor continuing such treatment breaches obligations owed to the patient and the profession, even if the SDM insisted on continued life support.

This conference will highlight the various perspectives related to end of life care and making appropriate use of intensive care. We will also provide suggestions for processes and highlight legislative frameworks to address the legal and ethical issues to make appropriate use of intensive care.

This conference is targeted at Physicians, ICU staff, Intensivists, Clinical Ethicists, Legal Counsel, C-level, Board members, VPs, Senior Administrators, Clinical leaders, Management leaders, Patient Relations and Religious Leaders.
Agenda

8:30 am
Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 am
Welcoming Remarks
Chair: Dr. Barry McLellan
President & CEO
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

9:15 am
Legal Perspective
• When is consent required to withhold or withdraw intensive care? What if it is refused?
• An overview of the current state of the law
• The significance of policies developed by hospitals, regulatory bodies and associations
Daphne Jarvis
Partner, Health Law Group
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

9:40 am
Active Learning: Q&A

9:50 am
Family and SDM Perspective
• How best to involve/engage families in the treatment plan
Rev. David Pritchard
United Church Minister

10:10 am
Active Learning: Q&A

10:15 am
Networking Break

10:30 am
End of Life: A Complex Ethical Journey
• The “Usual” end of life experience
• Variability in end of life care
• What is “Life Support”?
• Conflict – a clinical case study
• The importance of relationships and navigating complex communication challenges
• Lessons learned and ways forward
Margaret Keatings
Chief Interprofessional Practice and Chief Nurse Executive
The Hospital for Sick Children
Dr. Robert Fowler
Associate Professor
University of Toronto
Clinician Scientist
Heart and Stroke Foundation
Chair of the Research Committee and Director of Research Departments of Medicine and Critical Care Medicine
Sunnybrook Hospital

11:00 am
Active Learning: Panel Discussion

11:15 am
The Role of the Substitute Decision Maker in End of Life Care
• When is a decision required from a substitute?
• How are decisions supposed to be made?
• Is there any middle ground in end-of-life care?
Saara Chetner
Counsel, Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee
Ministry of the Attorney General

11:35 am
Active Learning: Q&A

11:40 am
Unique Perspectives on End of Life Care
• Promoting dignity in supporting end of life care
• Transitions: the role of hospital based palliative care
• Supports for staff
Mary Jo Haddad
President and CEO
The Hospital for Sick Children
Dr. Robert Howard
President and CEO
St. Michael’s Hospital

12:00 pm
Networking Lunch

1:30 pm
How to Apply ‘Best Interests’ at End of Life: A Checklist to Meet Ethical and Legal Obligations
• Describe how we understand/apply best interests at end of life in Ontario
• Explain why it matters (and where/how we err)
• Present a checklist to meet minimum obligations
Robert Sibbald
Clinical & Organizational Ethicist, CORE Ethics Program
London Health Sciences Centre

1:50 pm
Active Learning: Q&A

1:55 pm
The Relationship of Cultural and Religious Beliefs
• Assessing the influence of culture in end of life care
• Accommodating culture in end of life care
• Involving the family
Dr. Kerry Bowman
Bioethicist
Mount Sinai Hospital

2:20 pm
Active Learning: Q&A

2:30 pm
Networking Break

2:45 pm
Facilitated Breakout Groups – Solution-based Ideas to Move Forward

3:45 pm
Report Back and Next Steps

4:15 pm
Wrap up and Adjournment
Registration

Registration will take place on Thursday, February 23, 2012, at 8:30 am at the Radisson Admiral Hotel - Toronto Harbourfront. Space is not guaranteed, unless payment is received prior to the event.

Registration Fee

Member (OHA/OHPA/OMHLTC):
$499.00 + HST $64.87 = Total $563.87

Non-member:
$989.00 + HST $128.57 = Total $1117.57

Discount Policy

If more than one full registration is received from the same organization, a 15% discount (+13% HST) will apply to each additional registration received. The first registrant must pay the full registration fee. All group registrations must be received at the same time. This discount is not valid with other program promotions.

Cancellation Policy

Notice of cancellation must be provided in writing 3 days prior to the date of the program. A 50% administration fee will apply to all refunds. Registrants who fail to attend the program or cancel after the deadline date shall be liable for the entire fee. Substitutions are welcome. The Ontario Hospital Association reserves the right to cancel or reschedule a program.

Accommodation

If you require accommodations, please contact the Radisson Hotel Admiral Toronto-Harbourfront at 416-203-3333 or 1-800-967-9033. Please be sure to indicate that you are attending the OHA conference to secure a special room rate of $129 for single/double occupancy. Be sure to make your hotel reservation soon as accommodations for that time period are filling up quickly.

If you require extra assistance or have special requirements, please let us know when registering for the conference to ensure we can accommodate them.

Three Easy Ways to Register...

1. Online: www.oha.com/conferences
2. Fax: 416-205-1340
3. Mail: If paying with a cheque, complete the form and mail together with payment no later than February 9, 2012 to:

EP 249 Legal and Ethical Issues in End of Life
Educational Services Division
Ontario Hospital Association
200 Front Street West, Suite 2800
Toronto, Ontario  M5V 3L1

For additional program information and questions, please contact Elizabeth Barrasso at 416-205-1352 (local), 1-800-598-8002 ext. 1352 (toll-free), or ebarrasso@oha.com.