ASSIST: A DECISION-MAKING GUIDE

When you are faced with complex situations, especially when competing values create moral ambiguity, this values-based / principle-based guide can help you navigate the stakeholders toward resolution of the dilemma and clear courses of action.

| Articulate the issue | ➢ What is the dilemma, issue or decision?  
➢ Determine clear and explicit decision procedures  
➢ Do a literature search on the topic and check relevant policies. |
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| Support all stakeholders | ➢ Engage a broad range of stakeholder perspectives and relevant experience/expertise  
➢ Facilitate the inclusive participation of all affected stakeholders  
➢ Ensure all necessary information and perspectives are heard and noted |
| Summarize the competing values | ➢ Identify the competing values, principles, interests, and motivations  
➢ Ask whether there are other values, principles, or interests which should be included in the discussion. At the HDH site, consult the Health Ethics Guide.  
➢ Determine which values, principles or interests are most relevant or should take priority |
| Identify possible options | ➢ Identify the full range of possible options  
➢ Identify the primary values and principles shaping each option  
➢ Consider the possible consequences of each option |
| Select the course of action | ➢ Choose the option that best fits considering the values and principles of all stakeholders and will result in the best outcomes overall  
➢ Develop a rationale for the decision based on the preceding steps.  
➢ Communicate the decision and implementation plan |
| Test the results of the decision | ➢ Debrief and review outcomes and consequences  
➢ Determine and implement changes to practice, processes and policies as needed. |
Need more information?

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