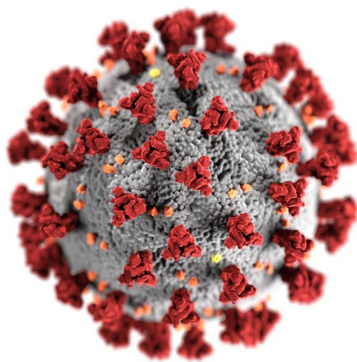




The Scenario: COVID-19 Vaccine Refusal



At Dundas Manor, a resident chose not to be vaccinated against COVID-19. He has multiple co-morbidities and lives in a 4-bed ward with two other gentlemen. This resident left the long-term care home on a day pass where it was known he would be in contact with unvaccinated family members.

Staff members are not able to legally require this resident to take the vaccine. Nor can they stop him from leaving the facility. Can they impose other restrictions for the good of the residents he lives with?

The IDEA framework (*see page 2*) was used to explore this concern.

IDENTIFY THE FACTS

What is the ethical issue?

- Resident at home is unvaccinated against COVID-19, has multiple comorbidities, is leaving the residence and does not have to quarantine upon return (per Ministry of Health's new guidelines).
- Putting others at risk

DETERMINE

Consult relevant individuals

- Dundas Manor staff have spoken with the resident many times informing him of the risks of being unvaccinated.
- The resident has his own views and refuses.

EXPLORE

Most ethically justifiable option

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care states that residents do not need to self-isolate upon return to home.

ACT

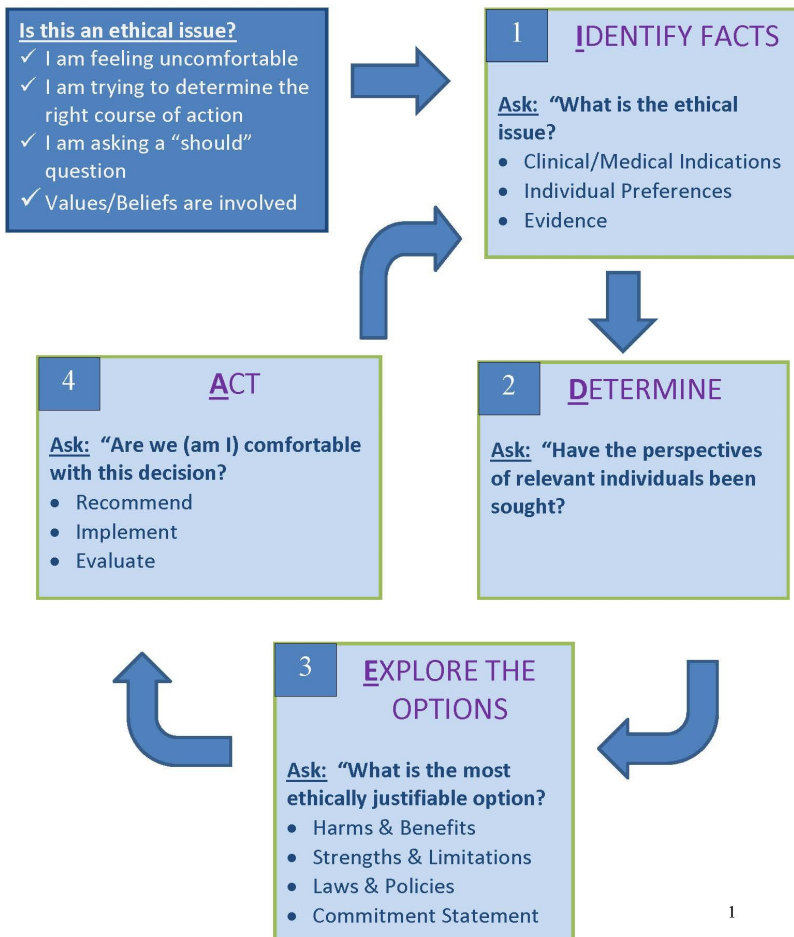
Am I comfortable with ethics of decision?

- The group has decided that the resident should not be punished for being unvaccinated. He has his own beliefs and values.
- Staff will let him continue living his life, including leaving the residence.

A Quick Refresher



IDEA Ethical Decision-making Framework



The Champlain Centre for Health Care Ethics (CCHCE) provides a centralized regional health care ethics approach for organizations across the continuum of care.

Visit the CCHCE website to learn more about the Centre’s services and educational resources:
www.champlainethics.ca

Read the CCHCE newsletter:
<https://bit.ly/2WXRLMB>

GET INVOLVED!

Do you know what to do if an ethical issue arises ?

The IDEA Ethical Decision Making Framework and worksheet are available on WDonline in the WDMH policy manual.

The WDMH/Dundas Manor Ethics Committee is always seeking new members (corporate and clinical staff)

Meetings are typically held on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm.
Please contact [Dr. Wayne Domanko](#) if you are interested or would like more information.