

# Model for Ethical Decision Making

*When faced with an ethical dilemma or conflict of interest scenario registrants must use the following Model and document their decision making.*

## Ask yourself the following:

### 1. What's really going on here?

- You need to take a moment to step outside of the situation and look at all sides of the issue. Separate the facts from innuendo, assumptions, opinions or beliefs.

Ask yourself, if the arrangement or practice:

- raises patient safety or quality of care concerns?
- has the potential to increase the risk of over utilization or inappropriate utilization?
- has the potential to interfere with, or bias clinical decision-making?
- has the potential to increase costs to the healthcare system?



### 2. What are my motives in all of this?

- You need to be self-aware and honest about your motives and intentions.

Ask yourself, are you motivated by your patient's best interests?



### 3. Does a clear answer already exist?

- You need to consider the Code of Ethics and companion documents: the Conflict of Interest Standards and Patient Relations Program and other legislation.

### 4. Consult with a colleague and ask yourself?

- How would I feel if I was the patient in this situation?
- How would I feel if my actions were made public?
- What would happen if all registrants did this?



### 5. What is the best option and why?

- Try to come up with three viable options and identify the pros and cons of each.
- Pick the option you consider to be the 'best' and document the rationale for your decision.

