AGENDA:

8:30 am Registration

8:50 am General Welcome & Introductions

9:00 am - 10:00 am Bioethics at the Bedside

Carrie Stott, MSW, PhD

Abstract: Bioethics is the study of ethical issues that arise from advances in biology and medicine. The vast array of issues related to bioethics has created a multitude of concerns that complicate healthcare today. As a result, ethical dilemmas are common daily occurrences in healthcare that impact professionals, patients, organizations, and society at large. With increased awareness of these issues and knowledge about guiding principles and frameworks, healthcare providers will be prepared to mitigate and confront common ethical issues in practice before they negatively disrupt patient care, patient satisfaction, and length of stay. This presentation will define bioethics and common ethical issues in healthcare today, review basic ethical principles, and overview a framework that can be used by healthcare professionals to address ethical concerns in practice.

10:00 am - 10:05 am Break

10:05 am - 11:05 am Respect for Persons: Autonomy, Informed Consent, Privacy and Confidentiality

Matthew Shea, PhD

Abstract: This presentation will examine the ethical principle of respect for persons and explore two ethical obligations stemming from the principle: respect for patient autonomy and respect for patient privacy. Special attention is given to how these obligations are clinically operationalized in the rules governing informed consent and confidentiality, and to some common ethical challenges surrounding them; and will explore the fundamental ethical issues underlying the principle of respect for persons, such as personhood, dignity, rights, and autonomy.

11:05 am - 11:15 am Break

11:15 am - 12:15 pm Ethics, Morals and Law: Ceilings and Floors, Encouragement and Punishment,

Apples and Potatoes?

David Korman, JD

Abstract: Ethics, (or perhaps more accurately "morals") is generally concerned with how we OUGHT to conduct ourselves. Law, in general, is about establishing and enforcing certain behaviors in "the real world." Although ethics/ morality "informs" some of the law, there are times when they are in conflict. How does Ethics influence the Law? When should Ethics not influence the Law? What should be the response when a person's ethics and the Law conflict?

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm LUNCH

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm It's Not As Simple As "What Would You Like Us To Do For Your Mom?" - A

Deeper Look At The Process of Surrogate Decision Making

Denise Stahl, MSN

Abstract: Surrogate decision-making is a complex process that starts with an assessment of capacity, considers decisional authority, and concludes with an output of a certain decision for a person who lacks capacity. Processes such as best interest, substituted judgement, familial interest, legal hierarchy/designations, medical power of attorney, and personal documentation of preferences can all factor into an optimal decision-making process for persons who lack real-time capacity. Understanding of existing law, regulation, and communication strategies to support optimal decision-making are critical to maintaining patient autonomy when capacity is compromised.

2:00 pm - 2:10 pm Break

2:10 pm - 3:20 pm Advance Care Planning: Reviewing Advance Directives, DNR and POLST

Cynthia S. McCarthy, DHCE, REMT

Abstract: Advance Care Planning is an important aspect of protecting patient autonomy. Understanding Living Wills and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care documents is a key step in this process. Another step in advance care planning may include the use of physician's orders pertaining to end of life care, specifically Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders (DNR) and Pennsylvania Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST). Advance Care Planning can be overwhelming and confusing for a variety of reasons. Clarification of the options available to patients and their surrogates can maximize patient autonomy and reduce the moral distress experienced by families and health care providers involved in end-of-life decision making.

3:20 - 3:30 pm Wrap-Up and Evaluation

3:30 pm Conference Adjournment