POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of TTUHSC SOM to ensure a forum and process for discussion of ethical issues, provision of education and consultation. Each TTUHSC campus may organize a Healthcare Ethics Committee to provide a forum and process for discussion of ethical issues, provision of education and consultation.

SCOPE:

This policy applies and will be distributed to all TTUHSC Ambulatory Clinics.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Health Care Ethics Committee exists to do the following:
   a. Provide education to the Medical Staff, MPIP Policy Committee, TTUHSC community, and the community at large.
   b. Serve as an advisory body on the formation of policies.
   c. Provide case consultation for ethical questions brought to the committee by Medical Staff members, other health care professionals, patients, families, and staff. An ethics consultation could be considered for some of the following reasons:
      a) For clarification of issues regarding decision-making capacity, informed consent, or advance directives.
      b) To provide recommendations for cases involving do-not-resuscitate orders or withdrawal of treatment.
      c) To help in resolution of ethical conflict—between family and caregivers, patient and caregivers, patient and family, or among staff members.
   d. This committee will be available in a consultative role to other schools within the HSC.
   d. Support Residency training.
2. Composition

Recommended composition of a Health Care Ethics Committee: an Ethicist, a member of the MPIP Policy Committee, a community representative, nurses, members of the Medical Staff, representation from the Basic Sciences division and a Legal Counsel or Risk Management representative, a School of Medicine Patient Advocate, Director of Performance Improvement or Quality Improvement, and a Research Faculty member. The Chair and members of the Committee should be appointed by the School of Medicine Chief Medical Officer or Regional Dean, as applicable. The Health Care Ethics Committee may be a subcommittee of the Clinic Operations Committee.
3. Meetings

The Health Care Ethics Committee should meet at least quarterly or as needed after the committee’s charter is established. Regular reports of committee activities shall be provided to MPIP Policy by the Ethics Committee Chair or designee.

APPROVAL AUTHORITY:

This policy shall be recommended for approval by the Joint SOM Policy Committee to the Regional Deans with final signatory authority by the Deans, Schools of Medicine.

RESPONSIBILITY AND REVISIONS:

It is the responsibility of the Joint SOM Policy Committee to review and initiate necessary revisions based on collaboration and input by and through Quality Improvement/Performance Improvement and Risk Management. Administrative and technical management of this policy, including web site maintenance, will be the responsibility of the Lubbock Office of Performance Improvement.

| Signatory approval on file by: | Steven L. Berk, MD  
|                              | Dean, School of Medicine  
|                              | Jose Manuel De la Rosa, M.D.  
|                              | Dean, School of Medicine, El Paso |