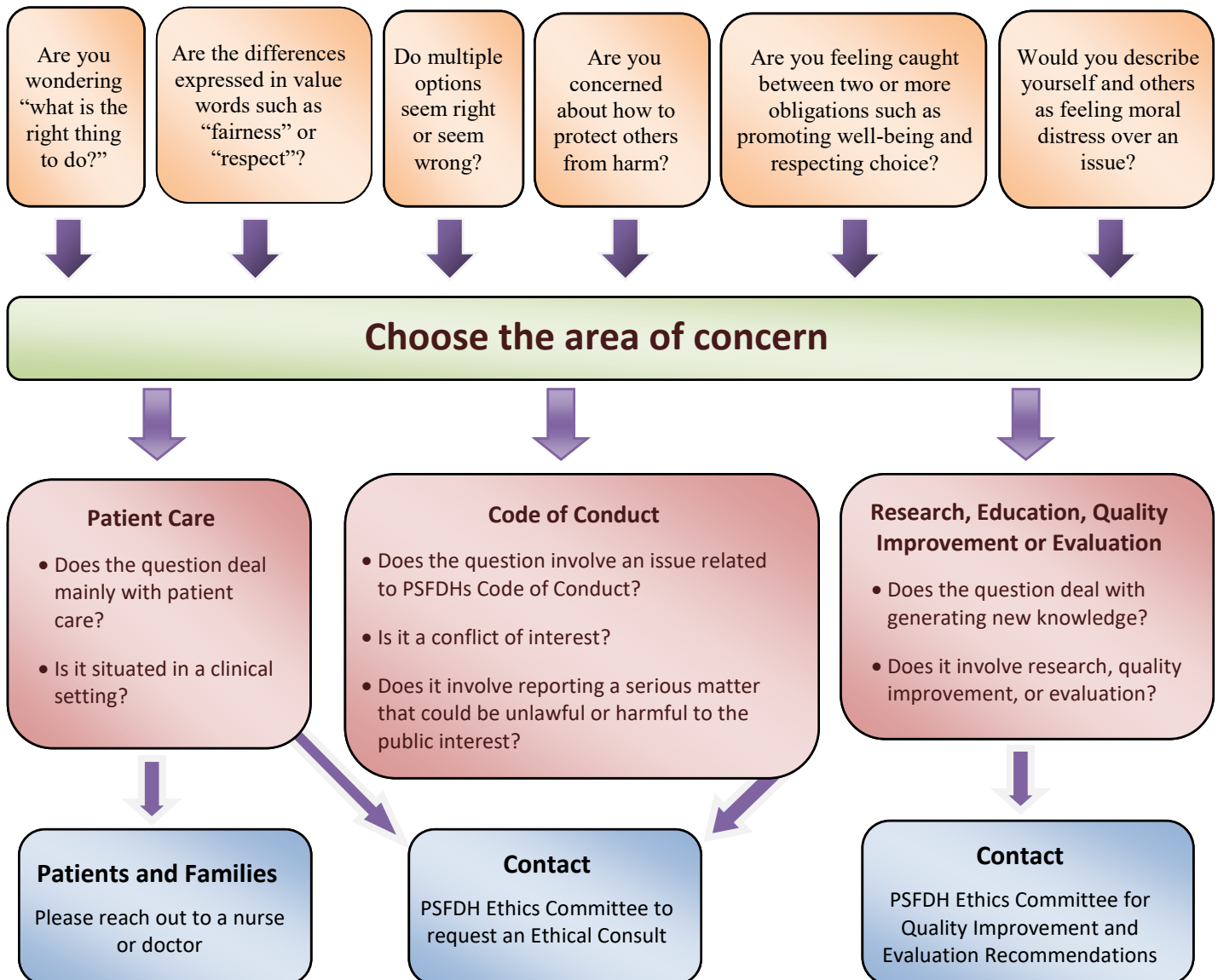


# Ethics Support

The Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital supports you in making good ethical decisions. Follow the decision tree below to determine the service that most closely suits your needs.

**Do you have an ethics question or dilemma?**

If you answer yes to any of the following, then it's likely that you do.





# Non-Clinical Organizational Ethical Decision-Making Process

While making ethical decisions can be a complex process not easily defined by an algorithm, identifying steps to take when faced with such an issue can help. Below is a decision-making process that can assist in ensuring that appropriate questions are being asked, and steps taken, to address an ethics issue.

<p><b>1. Clarify the key question</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify the central issue needing to be addressed</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Identify facts &amp; stakeholders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Collect relevant facts and identify what you need but don't have</li> <li>➤ If it is a clinical issue, collect information about the medical diagnosis or prognosis, quality of life described in patient's terms, patient's preferences and contextual features</li> <li>➤ Are there any organizational policies or guidelines addressing the question?</li> <li>➤ What guidance do relevant laws give?</li> <li>➤ Which individuals are relevant to this issue and who should be part of the discussion and decision?</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Identify values and prioritize</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are the key values?</li> <li>➤ What is the central conflict in values?</li> <li>➤ How do you prioritize these values against each other?</li> <li>➤ What do you think is most important and why?</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Identify options</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify all potential courses of action, even ones that don't immediately appear suitable</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Make a decision &amp; evaluate</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assess each option against the values that you determined to be of priority in the step above</li> <li>➤ Make a decision consistent with identified key values</li> <li>➤ Once the decision is made, follow up and evaluate so you can learn from this for next time</li> </ul>