

Anatomy of a Consult Note or Response to a Request for Ethics Advice

1. PATIENT INFORMATION

Brief summary of patient's diagnoses and prognosis, decision-making capacity, advance directives, medical orders, appropriate legal decision maker, and social situation.

2. ETHICAL QUESTION

Brief summary of the ethical questions you were asked to address and any other ethical questions or values conflicts that you have identified.

3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Brief summary of the process you went through in the consultation (e.g. persons with whom you talked, meetings held and the names of those attending)

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Describe what you are recommending - (e.g. further efforts to gather information, steps to build consensus or changes in the care plan) and **WHY**. Describe the ethical values supporting your recommendations.

5. CONSULTANT INFORMATION

Clearly identify the names of the consultants and how they can be reached if there are further questions or concerns.