

The Royal's Ethics Framework for Decision Making

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REASONABLENESS (A4R)

A4R encourages decision-makers to reflect upon the reasons for their decisions, and to guide organizations towards fair and ethical priority setting. The framework now embodies five principles:

1. **Relevance:** decisions are made in a way that “fair-minded people can agree are relevant to meeting the diverse health needs” given resource constraints.
2. **Transparency:** rationales for decisions should be made publicly accessible.
3. **Revision:** opportunities should be provided to revisit and revise decisions in a timely manner if further information becomes evident. Decisions can also be challenged by fair-minded people.
4. **Compliance:** there must be either a voluntary or involuntary process of ensuring compliance with all principles.
5. **Empowerment:** there should be efforts to optimize real opportunities for participation and engagement in priority setting, and to minimize power imbalances in decision-making.

I-D-E-A FRAMEWORK

1. **Identify** the facts: medical indications, client preferences, quality of life, and contextual features
2. **Determine** the ethical principals in conflict: list the principles & explain the issue
3. **Explore** the options: discuss the options and the strengths and weaknesses of each
4. **Act** on the decision and evaluate: develop and evaluate an action plan, self-evaluation / feedback

Adapted from Gibson, Martin & Singer. (2005) Evidence, Economics and Ethics. Healthcare Quarterly, Vol. 8, No. 2. and Daniels, N. & Sabin, J. (2002) Setting Limits Fairly: Can we Learn to Share Medical Resources? Oxford: Oxford University Press.

WHY A CORPORATE ETHICS FRAMEWORK?

A **Corporate Ethics Framework** is essential to ensure the decision making process is fair, equitable, transparent, and reflects the values of the organization. In a tertiary care Mental Health facility, organizational ethics encompasses multiple settings for decision making. There are **Clinical Decisions** which clinicians make on a daily basis to assist and treat their patients. They need to be governed under the guidelines or framework of a clinical ethics decision making tool. We have **Operational Decisions** that are founded on the prioritization of resources and selection of programs for service delivery. These are operational decisions which need to reflect an operational decision making process. The third area of decision making comes out of the commitment to **Research** and the ethical practices which govern the use of research protocols and client involvement in the studies.

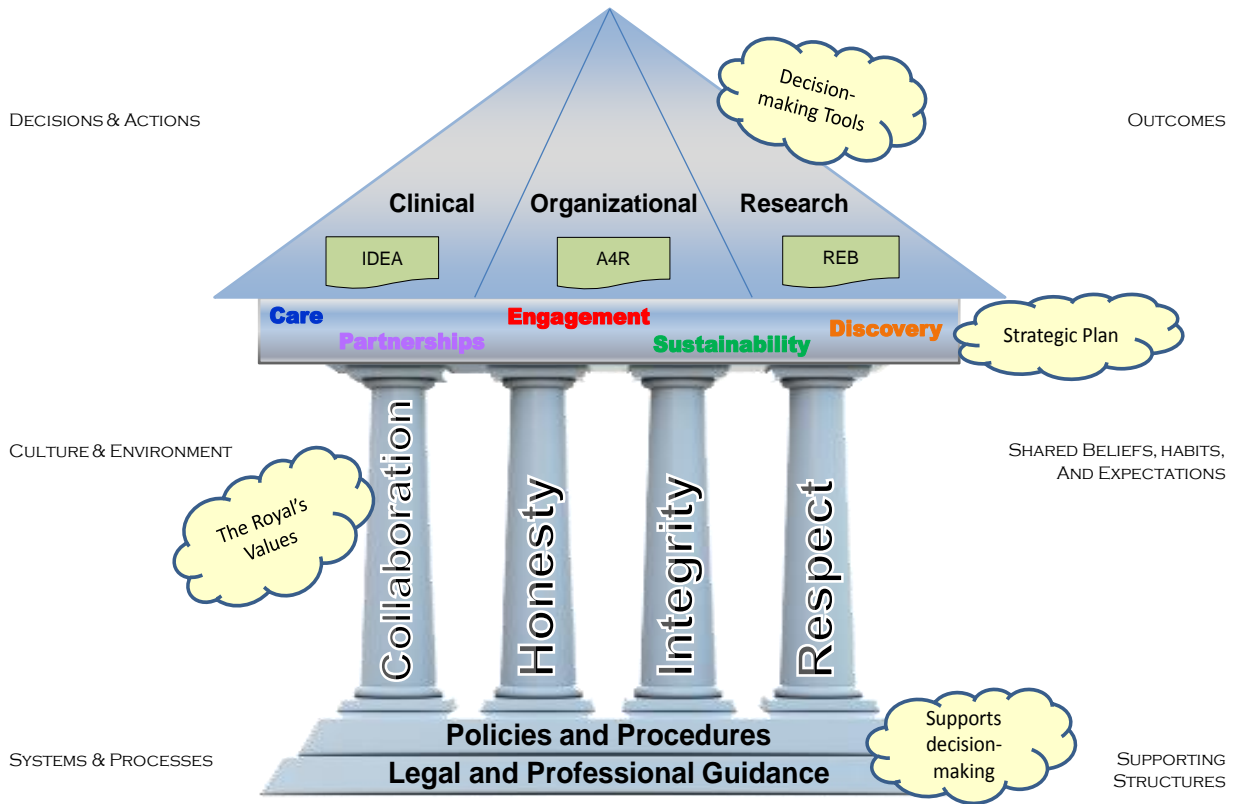
WHICH TOOLS FOR WHICH DECISIONS?


Each of these areas of decision making will use unique ethical tools to guide the thought process, selection of options, and ultimately outcome of these decisions. Clinical decisions will follow the **IDEAS framework** for ethical decision making. Operational decisions will utilize the **Accountability for Reasonableness framework (A4R)** for resource prioritization and allocation. Research decisions will follow the **Research Ethics Board** process and protocols for research project application and implementation.

ALIGNING WITH THE ORGANIZATION

The Corporate Ethics Framework itself must reflect the mission of delivering excellence in specialized mental health care, advocacy, research and education. It must also reflect and fundamentally support the values of the organization including **collaboration, honesty, integrity and respect**. The framework includes the four values which act as pillars to uphold each of the ethical tools for use in decision making.

CORPORATE ETHICS FRAMEWORK



 represents a process and tool for decision-making