# Ethics and Health Policy

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The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group, revise and adapt them as needed, etc. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

## Questions:

- What was the key thing you learned about health policy development from this interview?
- Can you give some examples of health policies that are particularly contentious from an ethics perspective?
- Can you give some examples of health policies that would benefit from an ethics review, and some where you are not sure if it would be relevant? What makes you unsure?
- In your opinion, what characterizes a good health policy?
  - What steps would you take in the policy development process to help ensure that the resulting policy is a good one?
- How do you see values coming into play in the application of health policies?
- Michelle gives an example of how two policies can come into tension when applied in certain situations. Can you think of other such examples?
  - How might having the values and principles clearly spelled out in each policy help the ethical decision-making process around which policy to follow in such situations?
- Question for anyone who have been involved in health policy development: Did you engage ethics support in the process? Why/why not?
- Michelle outlines four main values that she believes should guide health policy development: Clarity, Humility, Curiosity, and Equity. Are there other values that you would add to the list?
- Michelle argues that understanding why a policy is being put in place is crucial, especially if the policy is controversial. Do you agree? Why or why not?

## Resources

Nova Scotia Health Library services: Policy https://library.nshealth.ca/policy
Ethics Nova Scotia Health: Policy development and review: https://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/ethics-support/policy-development-and-review

Nova Scotia Health Ethics Network: Ethics and Health Policy: The Nuts and Bolts -A practical guide to health policy development and review for ethics committee and reference group members. https://www.nshen.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NSHEN-Policy-Guide-2020.pdf

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