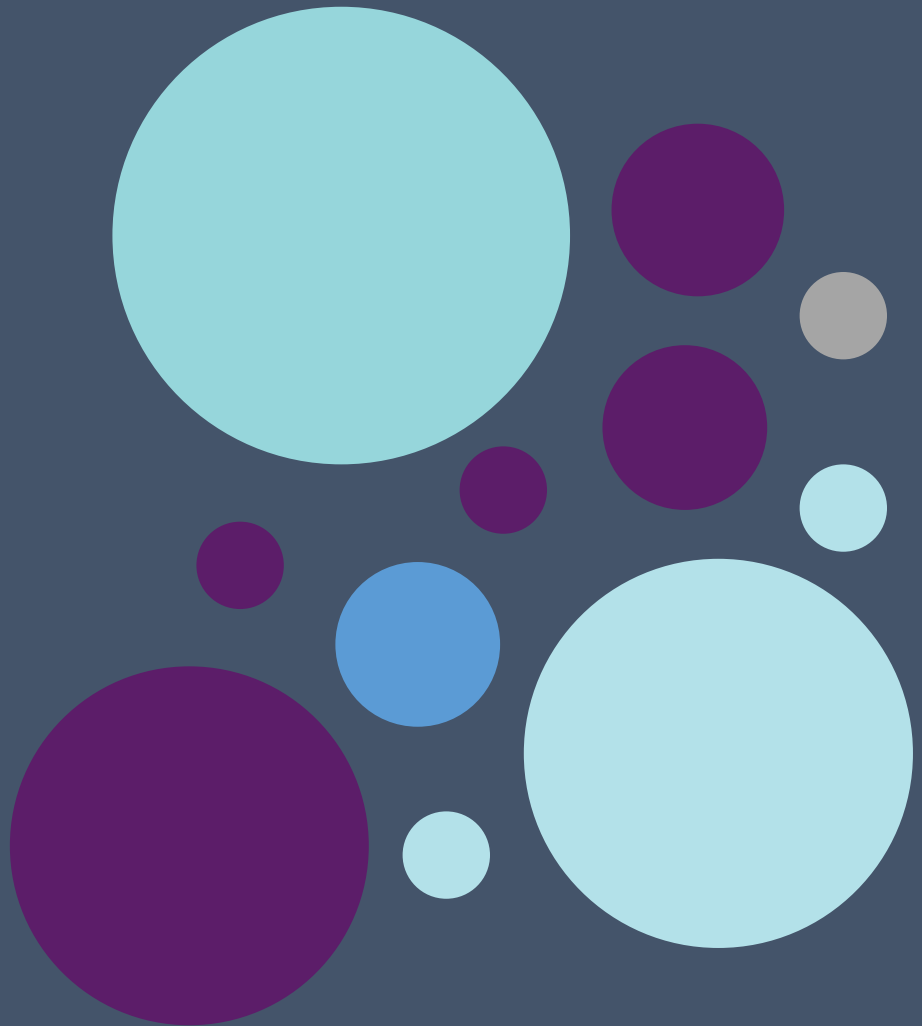


**Seven steps of the Critical Dialogue
Method: Unpacking clinical ethics
facilitation methods**

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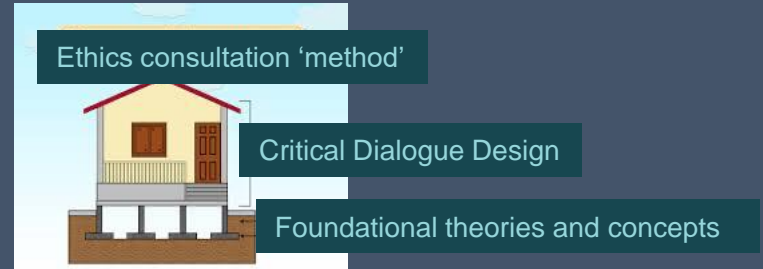


Critical dialogue method

1. Describe the goals and the (facilitation steps) used by an ethicist following this consultation approach

2. Describe theoretical foundations of the critical dialogue method – emphasizing educational theory

Delany, C., Feldman, S., Kameniar, B., & Gillam, L. (2024). Critical dialogue method of ethics consultation: making clinical ethics facilitation visible and accessible. *Journal of Medical Ethics*



Clinical ethics consultations aim to...

1. Build or identify a principled resolution and possible actions to address an ethical problem (Rasoal et al 2017., Force 2011)
2. Enhance clinicians' understanding of the ethical dimensions of a clinical problem so they can use their own moral agency to address them (Verkek and Lindemann 2012)

1. Opening Statement

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graph TD; A[1. Opening Statement] --> B(2. Listening actively and without interruption); B --- C(3. Gathering information and perspectives); C --- D(4. Closing in on the ethical question(s)); D --- E(5. Identifying ways of responding); E --- F(6. Identifying and weighing up ethical pros and cons of each possible response); F --> G[7. Agreed and ethically justified outcomes];
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2. Listening actively and without interruption

3. Gathering information and perspectives

4. Closing in on the ethical question(s)

5. Identifying ways of responding

6. Identifying and weighing up ethical pros and cons of each possible response

7. Agreed and ethically justified outcomes

1. Opening Statement

2. Listening actively and without interruption

3. Gathering information and perspectives

4. Closing in on the ethical question(s)

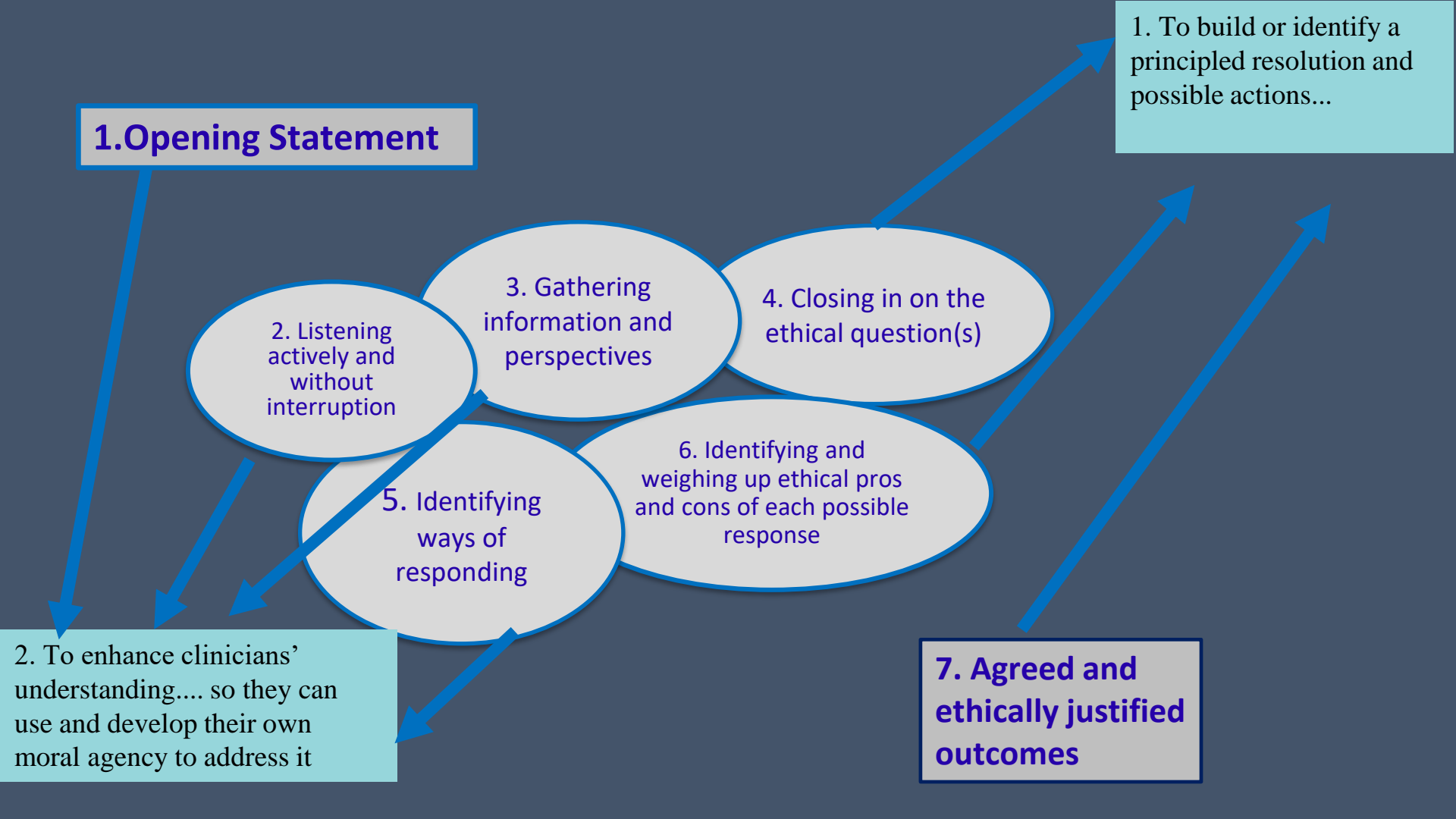
5. Identifying ways of responding

6. Identifying and weighing up ethical pros and cons of each possible response

1. To build or identify a principled resolution and possible actions...

2. To enhance clinicians' understanding.... so they can use and develop their own moral agency to address it

7. Agreed and ethically justified outcomes



Ethics facilitation as an educational activity

Similar to the role of a philosophy or ethics teacher who:

“...models cognitive reasoning skills and to engender moral development in students through collaborative ways of discussing, listening carefully and articulating views”
(Alexander 2018)

Habermas J: Recognise learners have emancipatory interests and not just technical or practical interests

Vygotsky L: Zone of Proximal Development

Education methods and the CD method

<p>Teaching principles: To facilitate learning in philosophy education Alexander (2018)</p>	<p>Links to facilitation approaches in the critical dialogue method</p>
<p>Collective approach: where the classroom is seen as a site of joint learning</p>	<p>(steps 1-3 of CD method)</p>
	<p><i>In the time we have available, we will aim to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>listen actively (including to hear both the content and the emotion within contributions)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>think critically (to consider the meaning and implications of what is being said rather than judging or evaluating the information)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>be comprehensive</i>● <i>identify and consider seriously the full range of possible views and positions</i>
	<p><i>We encourage you to bring your views and perspectives from your different clinical backgrounds and experiences.</i></p>

Education methods and the CD method

<p>Teaching principles: To facilitate learning in philosophy education Alexander (2018)</p>	<p>Links to facilitation approaches in the critical dialogue method</p>
	<p>(steps 2-5 of CD method)</p>
<p>Reciprocal dialogue: demonstrated by participants (learners) actively listening to each other, sharing ideas and considering alternative viewpoints</p>	<p><i>This is what I heard you say ... have I got that right?</i> <i>The Social worker has talked about...does anyone have other information/ideas?</i></p>
<p>Supportive The classroom - safe and supportive space where learners can help each other reach common understandings</p>	<p><i>We started with the ethical question of...[whether this patient should be placed on the waiting list for transplant] but now we seem to have identified a more fundamental ethical question of ...[whether the patient has actually had a chance to make a fully informed and considered decision]</i></p>

Education methods and the CD method

<p>Principles supporting methods of facilitating conversation in philosophy education</p>	<p>Links to ethical deliberation in the critical dialogue model (CDM)</p>
	<p>Steps 4-6 of CD Method</p>
	<p><i>So far, a lot of concern has been expressed about...[the patient's difficult living situation], which relates to the ethical question of...[how beneficial the treatment would be for the patient in the long-term].</i></p>
	<p><i>On the basis of the discussion so far, I'm going to suggest that the key ethical question here is... [whether the option of amputation rather than limb-saving reconstructive surgery should even be offered to the patient] Does that sound like a reasonable formulation?</i></p>
<p>Cumulative Learners are supported to 'build on their own and each others' contribution and chain them into coherent lines of thinking and understanding.</p>	<p><i>What if...(the patient continues to insist that no information about her medical condition is passed on...). In the end do we think it ethically justified to breach her confidentiality?</i></p>
<p>Purposeful Whilst open and dialogic, the discussion is directed towards specific learning goals.</p>	

Summary

Advances the scholarship of clinical ethics consultation requires all elements of the work to be visible, accessible and therefore available for critique and debate.

1. Theoretical grounding

2. Goals

3. Methods

References

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Education methods and the CD method

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RCH Clinical Ethics Service

GOALS

1. Carefully and thoroughly consider ethical aspects of difficult situation

2 Assist staff to work through complex decision-making in emotionally fraught situations,



CLINICAL ETHICS SERVICES

CERG (Clinical Ethics Response Group) Committee consultations)

Ethicist to MDT

Individual ethics consultation

Education sessions with teams

Ethics de-briefs

Policy advice