

“I am most grateful for the work and ministry of the National Catholic Bioethics Center and in particular their Catholic Identity and Ethics Review. This Review helped me to better understand and to strengthen the Catholic health care ministries in my diocese. The Review was clearly written, faithful to Church teaching, and directly addressed all facets of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*. I highly recommend it!”



—Bishop David L. Ricken, DD
Diocese of Green Bay

FEATURES OF THE CIER PROGRAM

- Built upon the structure and content of the ERDs
- Objective, external review
- Comprehensive, in-depth, and specific ethical analysis
- Clear, consistent scoring and reporting
- Respects the needs and roles of bishops and Catholic health care leaders



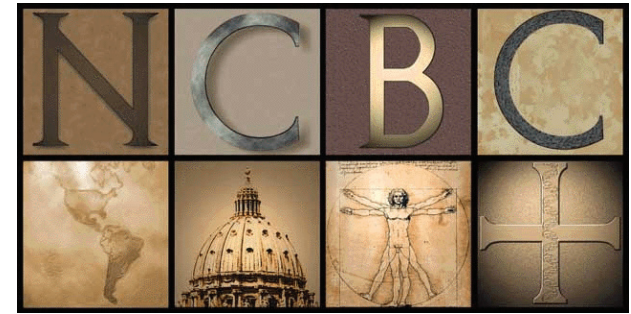
MISSION

The Mission of The National Catholic Bioethics Center is to promote and safeguard the dignity of the human person, thereby sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church. This is accomplished through consultation, education, publishing, and research in the health and life sciences.



For more information about the
CIER program, contact
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THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC
BIOETHICS CENTER

Catholic Identity and
Ethics Review (CIER)



The need for bishops to understand and strengthen Catholic health care has never been greater. Care for the ill, injured, and dying is an essential ministry of the Church, yet progress in health care has brought not only benefits but also unprecedented challenges—vast technological powers, increased financial costs, demands of activists, and waves of laws, rules, and regulations—some diametrically opposed to Catholic beliefs and moral teachings.

Bishops need a partner and a program to reliably assess Catholic health ministries in their dioceses. The NCBC, trusted for decades by bishops and Catholic health care to provide ethical counsel on a range of issues, designed the Catholic Identity and Ethics Review (CIER) program to help bishops fulfill their responsibility to oversee and strengthen the Catholic healing ministries in their dioceses.

FOCUS

Catholic Identity

Catholic health care institutions continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, offering health care services in the name of the Church. It is essential that, beyond brand identity or mission heritage, their Catholic identity be expressed clearly and effectively. The CIER program helps to measure this.

Ethical Integrity

There are many competing legal and professional standards for ethics in health care. The CIER program assesses how the *ERDs* are explained and implemented in daily work.

ELEMENTS REVIEWED

Written Guidance

1. Policy Analysis

An institution's policies express and guide its commitment to mission and Catholic identity. The CIER program reviews the role of the *ERDs* in policy.

2. Educational Programs and Materials

Sound educational materials are essential for implementing policy guidance in the care of patients and families. The CIER program reviews educational materials for employees, leaders, and the public.

3. Collaborative Arrangements

Collaboration is both an opportunity and a challenge for Catholic health care. The CIER program reviews major collaborative arrangements on the basis of the latest edition of the *ERDs*.

Performance

4. Data Analysis

Contemporary health care delivery requires documentation (in the form of codes) of the diagnosis and treatment procedures used in the care of patients. The CIER program analyzes these codes to assess integrity in surgical and clinical care.

5. Survey of Implementation

The NCBC asks organizations to briefly explain how they implement their written guidance to avoid moral harms or promote moral goods as defined in the *ERDs*.

6. Onsite Visit

The CIER program includes an onsite visit to assess in person how a Catholic health care institution's identity and ethical integrity are manifested in the environment of care, in daily work, and in the testimony of leaders and staff.

CLEAR AND CONSISTENT SCORES AND REPORTS

Each element is scored with a clear, consistent set of numbers and graphics. Action steps—Requirement, Recommendation, and Suggestion—follow the scoring system.

1	2	3	4
Problematic	Inadequate	Good	Excellent

An Executive Summary and one-page dashboard scores highlight key findings in the comprehensive Final Report.

COLLABORATIVE AND RESPECTFUL

The CIER program is always a shared endeavor of the local bishop, a Catholic health care organization, and the NCBC.

The Catholic health care organization always receives a draft report first and is given the opportunity to suggest corrections or clarifications before the Final Report is submitted.

The NCBC will work with the bishop and Catholic health care organization on an improvement plan if necessary.