

*From the Fall 2000 Newsletter*

## **QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

Within the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs) are responsible for making many important decisions that affect patient care. These decisions often have significant ethical implications. The lead article in this issue describes the development and activities of two VISN-wide ethics committees. While ethics committees in VA Medical Centers have become the standard of care, the need for network level committees is less clear. Do such committees duplicate services provided at the local or national level? Or are they the wave of the future?

**Should Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) create network-wide ethics advisory committees?**

YES  NO