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## DESCRIPTION

Ethical frameworks help clinicians navigate moral dilemmas that occur in healthcare settings, by incorporating patient values, preferences, and social context into decision-making. Formally adopting a framework such as the IDEA<sup>2</sup> ethical framework does not ensure that the tool is consistently used. Lack of staff awareness and knowledge translation of the ethical framework presents challenges on successful adoption. At Humber River Health (HRH), a multipronged approach was employed to fully integrate IDEA<sup>2</sup> into clinical practice. This strategy provides clinicians with a structured approach for addressing complex ethical dilemmas, while balancing principles of patient autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice.

## OBJECTIVE

To implement a multipronged strategy that improves the integration of the IDEA<sup>2</sup> framework into routine practices hospital-wide.

## ACTIONS TAKEN

To integrate the IDEA<sup>2</sup> framework into practice at HRH, it was:

- Embedded into a database used to document ethical consultations.
- Used during monthly Ethics Forums where cases are discussed and resolved.
- Featured in the monthly Ethics Bulletin distributed to all staff and physicians via e-mail.
- Displayed on staff identification badge inserts and tent cards, disseminated during orientation and across the organization to all staff and physicians.

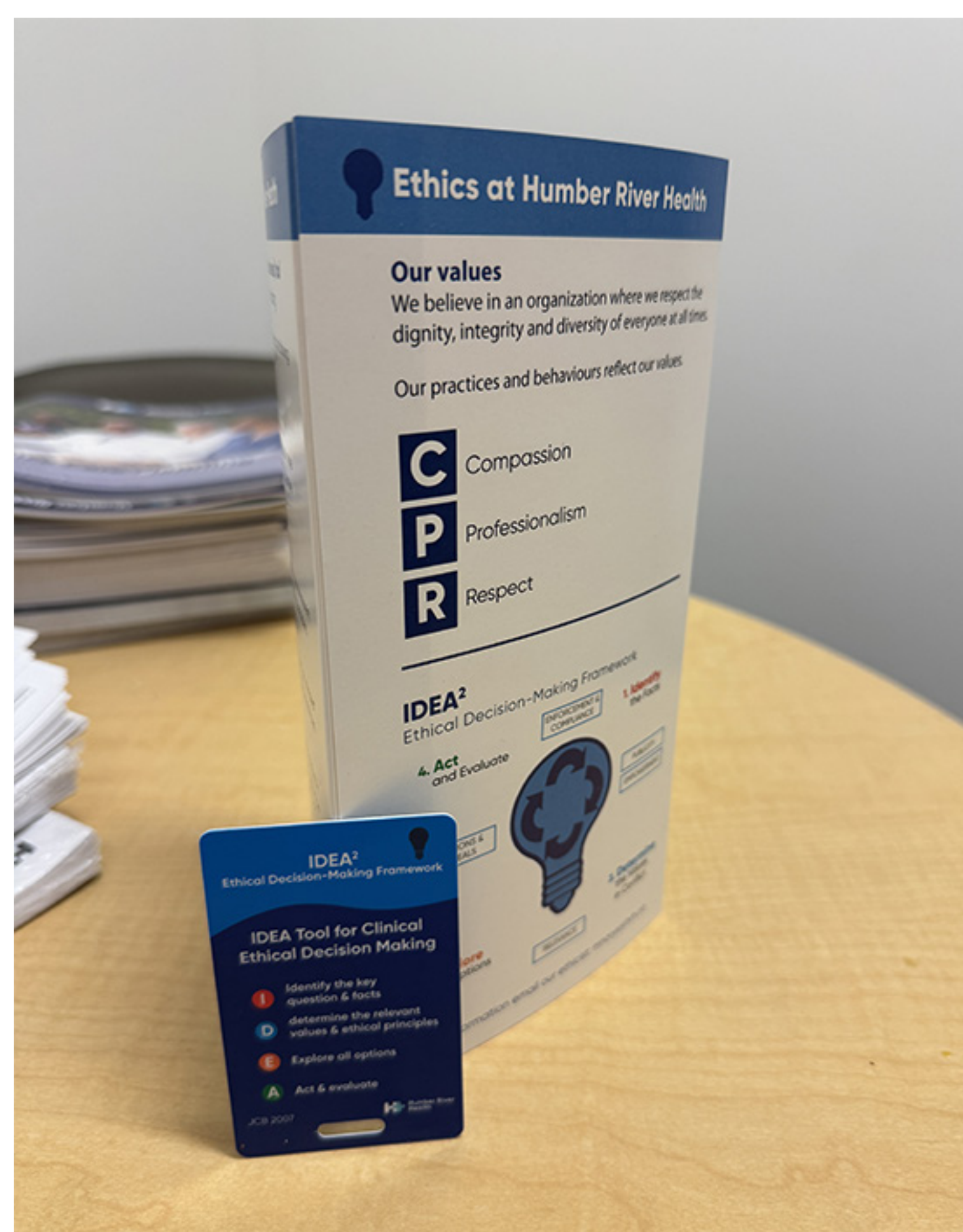


Figure 1. Example of an HRH staff identification badge inserts and tent cards with the IDEA<sup>2</sup> ethical framework for staff to have readily available when faced with ethical dilemmas.

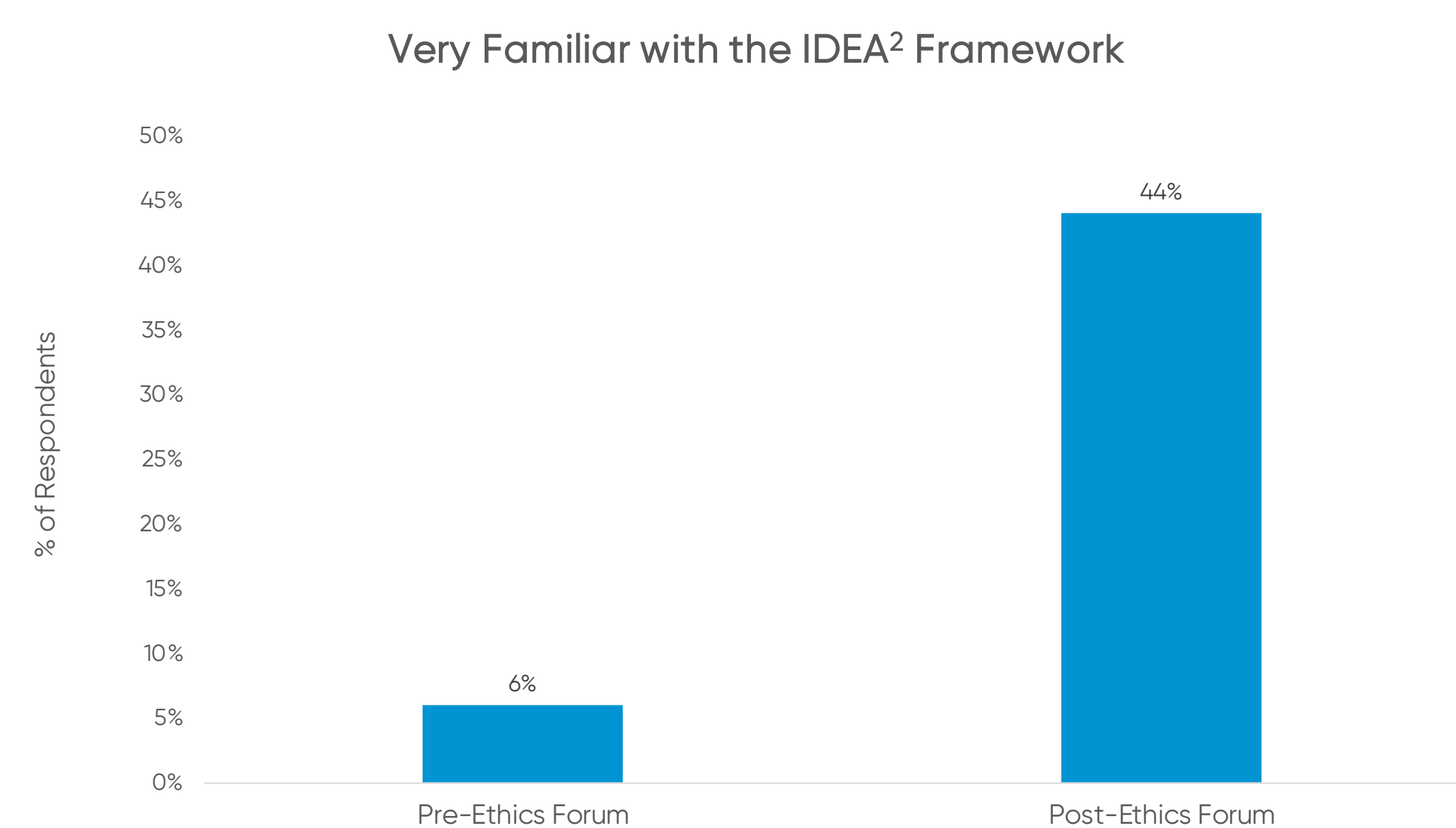


Figure 2. Ethics Forum is extremely effective in increasing familiarity with the IDEA<sup>2</sup> framework with a 38% increase on respondents reporting a higher level of familiarity of the framework after attending Ethics Forum.

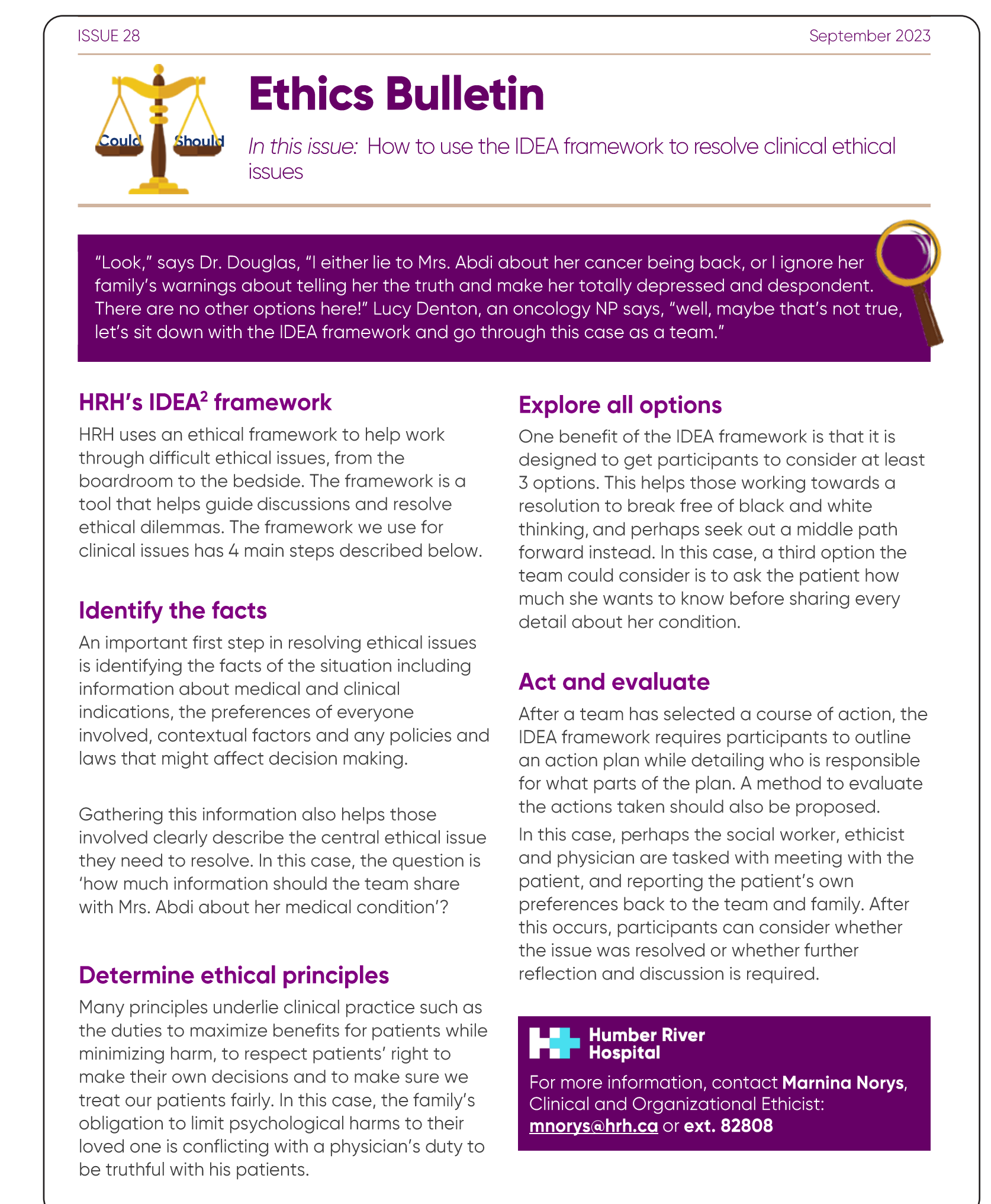


Figure 3. Example of an Ethics Bulletin newsletter describing the IDEA<sup>2</sup> framework that was e-mailed to all staff and physicians at HRH.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The number of survey respondents who reported being “very familiar” with the IDEA<sup>2</sup> ethical framework increased by 38% after attending Ethics Forum, with 88% of these respondents agreeing IDEA<sup>2</sup> is a valuable tool for resolving ethical dilemmas. The framework’s use in Ethics Forum has also led to a growing archive of resolved cases. The multipronged approach encourages clinicians to routinely apply IDEA<sup>2</sup> when facing ethical dilemmas.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Adopting an ethical framework is not enough – broad integration requires a multipronged approach and consistent reinforcement across clinical settings.