

END OF LIFE

PURPOSE

Provide guidance and support for our system policy on respect of life

POLICY STATEMENTS

It is the policy of all Franciscan Health System hospitals that all services rendered in our facilities shall be supportive of life. The hospital's goal is to help patients make informed decisions about end of life care without the hospital actively participating in the provisions associated with the Death with Dignity Act. It is the policy of each hospital to provide tools and support to a patient and their family that improves their quality of life when facing the problems associated with life threatening illness.

At no time may direct actions to terminate life be performed or permitted within Franciscan Health System hospitals.

Extraordinary means to sustain life need not be utilized when death appears to be imminent and inevitable.

PATIENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Access to Spiritual Care Services, Hospice Care and Palliative Medical Services are available within FHS facilities to support the quality of end of life.

Upon request, the hospital will provide each adult patient with information about their rights under Washington (WA) state law to make decision concerning such medical care, including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment and the right to formulate Advance Directives. The hospital policy of accepting the patient's or his/her surrogate decision-maker's decision concerning life-sustaining treatment **does not** include assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Initiating Ethics Committee Consults, may be requested to advise on policy statements and guidelines for decision-making where ethical considerations are involved. Medical Staff, staff and family/surrogate decision makers may request a consult.