

## **WEB PAGE STATEMENT – ALLOW PARTICIPATION**

### **WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN DEATH WITH DIGNITY IS A MATTER BETWEEN PROVIDERS AND THEIR PATIENTS**

The “Washington State Death with Dignity Act”, has raises many questions for physicians, pharmacists, counselors, and hospitals statewide.

After careful, thoughtful conversations with our medical staff, board of trustees/commissioners, and patients, we have decided that whether a physician, pharmacist, counselor, or other provider will participate in the ‘Washington State Death with Dignity Act’ should be the provider’s own choice. HOSPITAL does not wish to interfere in the relationship between the provider and the patient.

[HOSPITAL] will, however, ensure all the laws and safeguards of the “Washington State Death with Dignity Act” are followed if a provider and patient choose to participate. Any [HOSPITAL] provider who is participating in the “Washington State Death with Dignity Act” with a [HOSPITAL] patient must inform the hospital. The hospital will provide oversight and may review records to the extent necessary to ensure all the safeguards of the law have been followed and the required documentation completed and submitted to the Department of Health.

[HOSPITAL] does not mandate that any provider participate in the “Washington State Death with Dignity Act,” nor encourage any provider to do so. Only those providers and patients who are willing and desire to participate should do so.

All providers at [HOSPITAL] are expected to respond to any patient’s query about life-ending medication with openness and compassion. [HOSPITAL] believes our providers have an obligation to openly discuss the patient’s concerns, unmet needs, feelings, and desires about the dying process. Providers should seek to learn the meaning behind the patient’s questions and help the patient understand the range of available options, including but not limited to comfort care, hospice care, and pain control. Ultimately, [HOSPITAL’S] goal is to help patients make informed decisions about end-of-life care.

Life-ending medication is generally intended to be taken outside the hospital setting. While [HOSPITAL] allows its providers to participate, it may prohibit patients from taking the medication at the hospital (if you do not fill the prescription). [HOSPITAL] has decided for patient safety reason not to stock life-ending medication. While patients may receive a prescription from [HOSPITAL] providers, it must be filled elsewhere.