



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

OPERATING POLICY

CATEGORY: PATIENT RIGHTS

CODE: P-24

SUBJECT: PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING

EFFECTIVE: 04/2016

REPLACES: ---

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PURPOSE:

LLUMC is a Christian health care institution committed to providing integrative care that attends to the multifaceted needs of persons at every stage of life, including the end of life.

All human life deserves respect and protection. Every reasonable effort should be made to support, comfort, and safeguard human life in its wholeness. When caring for persons who are dying, it is essential to act with compassion in ways that respect human life, preserve trust in the patient-physician relationship, honor patient choices, and provide the fullest possible relief from pain and suffering. Patients and their families should be treated truthfully, fairly, and with careful attention to personal expressions of preferences.

1. The primary goal of care for patients who are terminally ill is the most effective possible alleviation of pain and suffering in affirmation of the patient's life. This requires thoughtful consideration of the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of patients.
2. LLUMC does not participate in Physician Aid In Dying. Accordingly, LLUMC will not knowingly admit patients for the purpose of Physician Aid In Dying. Patients shall be informed of this policy if they make a request of Physician Aid In Dying and will be given information about their options by designated individuals.
3. If a terminally ill patient requests assistance according to California's End of Life Option Act, every reasonable measure that might help to alleviate the underlying causes for the request shall be explored. Included among these measures shall be consultation with a psychiatrist or psychologist who may recommend interventions for treatable depression or other mental health conditions, as well as consultation with palliative medicine specialists to evaluate and treat all potential sources of suffering.
4. If a terminally ill patient admitted to LLUMC continues to request Physician Aid In Dying, a referral shall be provided.

Related Policies:

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Ethical Conflicts Regarding Patient Care Issues: Staff Rights (I-65)
Palliative Sedation (M-132)
Clinical Ethics Consultations (M-138)
Information and Counseling for Terminal Illness (M-139)
Pain Management (M-140)
Patient Consent (P-2)
Conflict Resolution Regarding Patient Care (P-12)

APPROVED: Hospital Executive Leadership, LLUMC Board, LLUMC Chief Executive Officer,
LLUMC Ethics Committee, LLUMC Medical Staff President, Janet Kroetz