



## **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

**FACILITY:** LHN  
**DEPT NO:** 05.8611  
**POLICY NO:** E-102  
**DEPARTMENT:** ADMINISTRATIVE  
**TITLE:** End of Life

### **Policy:**

Lourdes Health Network (LHN), wholly owned by Lourdes Hospital, LLC (“Lourdes LLC”), a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Capella Healthcare, LLC (“Capella”). As a condition of acquiring LHN, Lourdes LLC and Capella have entered into a “Catholic Identity Covenant” with the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church of Diocese of Spokane (the “Catholic Identity Agreement”). As part of the Catholic Identity Agreement, Lourdes LLC and Capella have agreed to continue to operate LHN consistent with the following mission statement:

Lourdes Health Network’s mission is an extension of the healing ministry of Jesus. We are called to serve our community, our patients, their loved ones and our co-workers with respect, compassion, and care. We respond to the health care needs of the community in a Christian Spirit. We strive for excellence in all we do.

Consistent with LHN’s corporate obligations, policies, the Catholic Identify Agreement, and in keeping with the values and principles inherent in the medical-moral teaching of the Catholic Church as promulgated by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, care, treatment and services for persons facing the reality of death are provided.

LHN is committed to the fundamental values of respect for the sacredness of life, and compassionate care of dying and vulnerable persons. Lourdes Health Network does not participate nor in any way assist with physician-assisted suicide on any Lourdes Health Network campus.

Lourdes position and policy are based on its fundamental values of respect for the sacredness of life, compassionate care of dying and vulnerable persons, and respect for the integrity of the medical, nursing and allied health professionals.

### **Procedure:**

Lourdes provides appropriate support for dying persons and their families through the final stages of life.

1. Patients are provided information on Advance Directives.
2. Patients, families, physicians, nurses and other caregivers are encouraged to fully explore and discuss care and treatment options for terminally ill patients.
3. End of life wishes, including no resuscitation or life-sustaining treatments, will be honored and implemented to the extent permitted by law and within the guidelines of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.
4. Persons in danger of death are provided with whatever information is necessary to help them understand their condition and have the opportunity to discuss their condition with their family members and care providers. They are offered the appropriate medical information that would make it possible to address the morally legitimate choices available to them at Lourdes.



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5. Patients are provided with social, spiritual and pastoral care support and other services desired in order to prepare well for death.
6. Patients are offered information about hospice, palliative and other supportive care.
7. Patients are kept as free of pain as possible so that they may die comfortably and with dignity.

References:

"Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services," United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Catholic Identity Agreement" between Capella Healthcare and the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church of Diocese of Spokane.

*February 2014  
Adopted and approved Sept. 2018  
By Mark Gregson, CEO*