

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital  
and the  
Initiative 1000: The Washington State Death with Dignity Act

*Background Information*

Initiative 1000

Initiative 1000, The Washington State Death with Dignity Act went into effect of March 5, 2009. Under the provisions of Initiative 1000, “willing health care providers” may participate in providing life-ending medications to patients that meet specific conditions.

Some of those conditions include:

- The patient is a terminally ill, competent, adult Washington resident who can make an informed decision;
- The patient is medically predicted to pass away within six months;
- The patient makes two verbal requests and one written request to receive life-ending medication, with a 15 day waiting period between the first and second verbal request;
- Two physicians concur and confirm the patient’s diagnosis and that the patient is indeed competent to make this decision;
- The patient is informed of all other options;
- The patient self-administers the life-ending medication.

As the act specifies that only “willing healthcare providers” should participate in providing life-ending medication to their patients, hospitals are given an option to partially comply with Initiative 1000.

Memorial’s Position on Initiative 1000

Yakima Valley Memorial strives to meet the health care needs of the community we serve in a continuum of care from birth to death. The Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees recognizes and accepts the decision of the citizens of the state of Washington with the passage of the Act. However, the Board believes that it is inconsistent with the core values of Memorial and its Family of Services, as health care providers, to either unduly prolong or hasten the natural process of life.

On February 23, 2009, The Memorial Board of Trustees passed a resolution that life-ending medication will not be allowed to be dispensed or administered at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital or any facility owned, leased and controlled by Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

Memorial also recognizes the important and personal relationship between the physician and patient and thus will allow the consultation and prescription process of life-ending medication by its physicians, as defined in the Death with Dignity Act, outside of Memorial’s facilities.

Life-ending medication will not be dispensed or administered at any Memorial owned and controlled facility, including the hospital and its Family of Services. These prohibitions against the dispensing and prescribing of life-ending medications and the self-administration of such medications by patients shall

not apply in facilities owned or leased, but not operated or controlled, by Memorial. For example, this would include a non-Memorial tenant at Memorial's West Pavilion I or West Pavilion II.

Memorial -Owned , Leased and Controlled Facilities

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Station, Children's Village, Children's Village Sunnyside, Cornerstone Medical Clinic, Family Medicine of Yakima, Garden Village, Home Health and Hospice, North Star Lodge Cancer Center, Memorial Specialty Clinics in Ellensburg, North Star Lodge Sunnyside Clinic, 'Ohana, Mammography Center, Pacific Crest Family Medicine, Sleep Center at Memorial, Valley Imaging, Yakima Gastroenterology Associates, Cascade Surgical Partners, Yakima Neurosurgery Associates, Yakima Plastic Surgery Associates, Yakima Vascular Associates, Surgi-Center at Memorial, and Water's Edge Pain Center.

This list is subject to be revised as appropriate.