

Department: Admin	
Policy Title: The Colorado End-of-Life Options Act	Policy #: 9110-02

Purpose of Policy: The Colorado End-of-Life Options Act (C.R.S. § 25-48-101, et seq.) authorizes medical aid in dying and allows a terminally ill adult with a prognosis of six month or less, who has mental capacity, has made an informed decision, is a resident of Colorado, and has satisfied other requirements, to request and obtain a prescription for medical aid-in-dying medication to end his or her life in a peaceful manner.

The purpose of this policy is to describe the position of Southwest Health System, Inc., doing business as Southwest Memorial Hospital, its departments, clinics, affiliates and subsidiaries (“SHS”) regarding in End-of-Life Options Act for participation of physicians employed or under contract and to provide guidelines for responding to patient requests for information about medical aid-in-dying medications in accordance with federal and state laws and rules and regulations promulgated thereto and applicable accreditation standards.

Scope: Organization Wide

1. Definitions:

Adult	An individual who is eighteen years of age or older
Medical Aid-in-Dying	The medical practice of a physician prescribing medical aid-in-dying medication to a qualified individual that the individual may choose to self-administer to bring about a peaceful death.
Mental Capacity or Mentally Capable	In the opinion of an individual’s attending physician, consulting physician, psychiatrist or psychologist, the individual has the ability to make and communicate an informed decision to health care providers.
Medical Aid-in Dying Medication	Medication prescribed by a physician to provide medical aid in dying to a qualified individual.
Terminal Illness	An incurable and irreversible disease that has been medically confirmed and will, within reasonable medical judgment, result in death.
Prognosis of Six Months or Less	A prognosis resulting from a terminal illness that the illness will, within reasonable medical judgment, result in death within six months and which has been medically confirmed.
Self-administer	A qualified individual’s affirmative, conscious, and physical act of administering the medical aid-in-dying medication to himself or herself to bring about his or her own death.
Attending Physician	A physician who has primary responsibility for the care of a terminally ill individual and the treatment of the individual’s terminal illness.
Consulting Physician	A physician who is qualified by specialty or experience to make a professional diagnosis and prognosis regarding a terminally ill individual’s illness.
Licensed Mental Health Professional	A psychiatrist licensed under article 36 of title 12, C.R.S., or a psychologist licensed under part 3 of article 43 of title 12, C.R.S.
Informed Decision	A decision that is: i. Made by an individual to obtain a prescription for medical aid-in-

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	<p>dying medication that the qualified individual may decide to self-administer to end his or her life in a peaceful manner;</p> <p>ii. Based on an understanding and acknowledgment of the relevant facts; and</p> <p>iii. Made after the attending physician fully informs the individual of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. His or her medical diagnosis and prognosis of six months or less; b. The potential risks associated with taking the medical aid-in-dying medication to be prescribed; c. The probable result of taking the medical aid-in-dying medication to be prescribed; and d. The choices available to an individual that demonstrate his or her self-determination and intent to end his or her life in a peaceful manner, including the ability to choose whether to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Request medical aid in dying; (2) Obtain a prescription for medical aid-in-dying medication to end his or her life; (3) Fill the prescription and possess medical aid-in-dying medication to end his or her life; and (4) Ultimately self-administer the medical aid-in-dying medication to bring about a peaceful death; and e. All feasible alternatives or additional treatment opportunities, including comfort care, palliative care, hospice care, and pain control.

2. Policy: Colorado law recognizes certain rights and responsibilities of qualified patients and health care providers under the Colorado End-of-Life Options (“Act”). Under the Act, a health care provider, including SHS, is not required to assist a qualified patient in ending that patient’s life.

2.1 SHS has chosen to not participate under the Act. Physicians employed by the SHS or under contract may not knowingly participate in activities under the Act.

2.2 When a patient expresses intent to request medical aid-in-dying medication, the patient will be informed that SHS and its physicians employed or under contract will not participate or assist in that act. SHS caregivers will still provide all other requested end-of-life and palliative care and other services to patients and families.

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2.3 Consistent with this policy, SHS will continue to provide care to patients who qualify for and request services, regardless of their stated interest in seeking medical aid-in-dying medication.

3. SHS will cooperate in the transfer to another facility of the patient’s choice. SHS will coordinate transfer of the patient’s medical records to the new health care provider.

4. **References:**

5. **Revision Description:**

Review Date	Revised? Yes or No	Revision #	Description of Change	By:
12/30/2016	N/A	1	New Policy	SHS Board of Directors

6. **Keyword Search:** End-of-Life, 106, Aid-in-dying