

## **Physician Assisted Suicide – Governance**

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PeaceHealth does not participate in nor in any way assist with, physician-assisted suicide.

As a Catholic health care ministry, PeaceHealth promotes and defends respect for human dignity and worth, reflecting the Catholic commitment to respect the sacredness of every life. Providing care and compassion to persons who are suffering and at the end of life, is integral to honoring human dignity and the sacredness of life. Also, recognizing each person as a valued member within community, PeaceHealth has a responsibility to promote the common good, thereby promoting those economic, political and social conditions which protect the fundamental rights of all individuals. Such an approach enables all individuals to “fulfill their common purpose and reach their common goals” (Ethical and Religious Directives, 5<sup>th</sup> edition: Part One, paragraph four, page 10). Assisted suicide, even if legalized, violates both human dignity and the common good and does not respect the sacredness of life that is fundamental to Catholic Health Care ministry.

Although PeaceHealth holds that death should not be directly hastened or postponed, it regards patients as central to the decision-making process, assuring them that they will receive all appropriate care and be able to refuse unwanted, burdensome treatment.