

Press Release

Mid-Valley Hospital and Mid-Valley Medical Group will not participate in the Death with Dignity Act

On November 4, 2008 Washington State voters passed Initiative 1000, the Death with Dignity Act. This Act allows physicians to provide lethal prescriptions to terminally ill, competent, adult Washington residents who are expected to die within six months. The Act takes effect on March 4, 2009.

The Death with Dignity Act is clear that no provider (including Mid-Valley Hospital and Mid-Valley Medical Group) is required to assist a qualified patient in ending his or her own life. Mid-Valley Hospital Board of Commissioners at their board meeting on January 27, 2009 voted unanimously to not participate under the Death with Dignity Act. This means that Mid-Valley Hospital and Mid-Valley Medical Group physicians, employees, independent contractors and volunteers will not assist a patient in ending his or her life on the premises of Mid-Valley Hospital and Mid-Valley Medical Group.

Mid-Valley Hospital does not oppose death with dignity. Mid-Valley Hospital continues to promote quality end-of-life care. Mid-Valley Hospital and Mid-Valley Medical Group will respond to patient's questions and concerns about the dying process with compassion and seek to help the patient understand the range of available options for end-of-life care, including but not limited to, comfort care, hospice care, and pain control. Mid-Valley Hospital strives to provide compassionate, competent care that is consistent with the patient's wishes, without unduly hastening or prolonging the natural process of dying.