



Your life. Your death. Your choice.

Friday, August 27, 2021

Re: Hospitals' Obligation under the Protecting Patient Care Act

Dear Colleague,

As you are aware, the Protecting Patient Care Act ESHB 1608, ("PPCA"), passed by the Legislature in 2020, requires all hospitals and other health care entities in the state to notify annually health care providers in their employ about their right to provide information and referrals about Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) pursuant to our Death with Dignity Act (DWDA), RCW 70.245. The PPCA states in part:

Section 2: "...a health care entity may not limit...(l)imit the health care provider's provision of information about and regarding Washington's death with dignity act, chapter 70.245 RCW, information about what relevant resources are available in the community, and how to access those resources for obtaining the care of the patient's choice...."

Regarding the requirement of annual notification to providers, we enclose a useful brochure about the Death with Dignity Act and the services offered by End of Life Washington. We encourage you to provide this brochure to all of your providers and we are happy to supply you with a sufficient number of brochures.

Additionally, we are always interested in partnering with you to bring professional development training related to end-of-life choices, including medical aid in dying and Voluntary Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED) to any part of your organization.

Please contact me at jkinney@endoflifewa.org to let us know how many brochures you require and where and to whom to send them, and to explore bringing a training to your team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Kinney", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Judy Kinney, MSW
Executive Director