

 <b>LOS ROBLES</b> HEALTH SYSTEM	<b>End of Life – Aid in Dying</b>		Page 1 of 2
<u>Distribution:</u> Policy Portal/Administrative	<u>Approval Mechanisms:</u> Medical Executive Committee Board of Trustees	<u>File under:</u> Policy Portal/Administrative	Effective: 1/21/26 Approved: MEC-1/14/26 BOT-1/21/26

## **PURPOSE**

To describe the position of Los Robles Hospital regarding allowing participation of its employees, independent contractors, or other persons or entities in activities under the California End of Life Option Act (the “Act”), and to provide guidance in caring for patient(s) who express interest in ending their life under the Act by requesting an aid-in-dying drug (as defined pursuant to the Act).

## **DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Aid-in-dying drug” means a drug determined and prescribed by a physician for a qualified individual (as defined in the Act), which the qualified individual may choose to self-administer to bring about his or her death to a terminal disease.
- B. “Attending physician” means the physician who has primary responsibility for the health care of an individual and treatment of the individual’s terminal disease.

## **POLICY**

Los Robles Hospital has determined that the requirements of the Act make it more conducive to a setting or environment other than an acute care hospital. Los Robles Hospital will not participate or assist in participation in activities pursuant to the Act. Los Robles Hospital employees, independent contractors, physicians and volunteers may not knowingly participate in or facilitate activities under the Act, except as provided herein, while: “(1) on premises owned or under the management and direct control of Los Robles Hospital (including but not limited to Hospital grounds and Hospital operated facilities, clinics, pharmacies, etc.) or (2) while acting within the scope of any employment by, or contract with, Los Robles Hospital.

## **PROCEDURE**

- A. Patients, families, nurses, physicians and other providers are encouraged to explore fully and discuss care and treatment options for terminally ill patients. As part of that discussion, requests for physician-assisted death or self-administered life-ending medication may occur. We respect the rights of patients and their care team to discuss and explore all treatment options; however, Los Robles Hospital, its facilities, programs and caregivers do not allow participation in the activities under the Act, which include, without limitation, delivering a prescription for, dispensing, or delivering the dispensed aid-in-dying drug. Any member of a patient care team may respond to questions from a patient and family, but any request for an aid-in-dying drug must be referred to an “attending physician,” as defined in the Act.
- B. Los Robles Hospital physicians, employees, contractors, and volunteers may not knowingly

participate in or facilitate activities under the Act and may not provide, deliver, administer, or assist with the administration of any aid-in-dying drug, or be present when a patient ingests an aid-in-dying drug on premises owned or under the management and direct control of Los Robles Hospital (including but not limited to Hospital grounds and Hospital operated facilities, clinics, pharmacies, etc.

- C. When a patient expresses intent to pursue physician-assisted death.
  - 1. Handout – End of Life Option Act, Talking Points from CHA 2016 will be provided to the patient for follow up after discharge from facility.
  - 2. The patient will be informed that Los Robles Hospital will not participate in the activities under the Act and its physicians, employees, and volunteers will not provide, deliver, administer or assist the patient with the aid-in-dying drug.
  - 3. Los Robles Hospital caregivers will still provide all other requested end-of-life, hospice, palliative care and other services to patients and families.
- D. Consistent with this policy, Los Robles Hospital will continue to provide appropriate care to patients who qualify for and request end-of-life services, regardless of their stated interest in seeking an aid-in-dying drug.

#### **REFERENCES**

- A. AB15 – End of Life Option Act, Health & Safety Code Section 443 et seq.