

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

End-of-Life Care

Is Swedish a Catholic hospital?

- No. Swedish is a secular (non-faith-based) organization. Swedish affiliated with Providence Health & Services in 2012 to improve the health and well-being of our communities and increase access to care.

Does Swedish follow the Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs) for Catholic Health Care Services?

- No. The affiliation agreement states that Swedish is a non-faith-based health care institution and is not required to follow the ERDs.

What is Swedish's stance on the Death With Dignity Act?

- Prior to the affiliation with Providence in 2012, Swedish independently chose in 2009 to not provide life-ending medications to patients or permit patients to take such medications while at Swedish. This decision is in full compliance with Washington's Death With Dignity Act.

What about patients who have advance directives and living wills?

- Swedish continues to fully respect and follow the wishes that patients indicate in their advance directives and living wills.

Can patients self-administer life-ending prescriptions — under Washington's Initiative-1000 (the Death With Dignity Act) — at Swedish facilities?

- No. Swedish believes that its acute care hospitals are not the appropriate setting for patients taking life-ending medications.

Do Swedish pharmacies fill prescriptions for life-ending medications?

- No. The primary purpose of the Swedish pharmacies is to provide services to inpatients. Swedish will assist patients in identifying other community pharmacies willing to participate in dispensing medications under Washington's Death With Dignity Act.

Can Swedish physicians participate in helping patients secure life-ending medications?

- Physicians, including physicians working in Swedish clinics and other facilities, will need to make an individual decision to participate or not participate under Washington's Death With Dignity Act, either as an attending physician or a consulting physician, as those terms are defined in the law.

Where can I learn more about your end-of-life care policies?

- On our website at <http://www.swedish.org/about/overview/policies>