



<b>Policy/Procedure Title</b>	Elizabeth Whitefield End-Of-Life Act Opt Out 2021-4			<b>Policy #</b>	
<b>Manual Location(s)</b>	Union County General Hospital	<b>Effective</b>	5/2021	<b>Manual Location (s)</b>	Administration
<b>Department Generating Policy</b>	Administration				
<b>Affected Departments</b>	Union County General Hospital				
<b>Prepared By</b>	Tammie Stump	<b>Date/Title</b>	5/18/2021/ CEO		
<b>Medical Staff Committee</b>	Mark Van Wormer, MD	<b>Date/Title</b>	5/20/2021, Chief of Staff		
<b>Governing Board</b>	Judith Cooper	<b>Date/Title</b>	5/26/2021, Governing Board Chair		

The State of New Mexico Legislature having passed the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act ("the Act") on March 16, 2021, and Governor Lujan Grisham having signed the Act on April 8, 2021, to allow health care providers and health care entities to provide a prescription for medical aid in dying.

The Act goes into effect on June 18, 2021.

- Pursuant to the Act, Union County General Hospital's below named Providers will not prescribe patient's medication to assist in the medical aid in dying. H.B. 47, 55th Leg., 1st Sess. (N.M. 2021), *available at* <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/HB0047.pdf>

Union County General Hospital's below named Providers will not admit "qualified patients" solely for the purpose of "the medical aid in dying". The definition of "medical aid in dying": the medical practice wherein a physician/ provider prescribes medication to a qualified patient who may self-administer that medication to bring about a peaceful death.

- Mark Van Wormer, MD
- Paul Wheeler, MD
- Minh Nguyen, MD
- Jay Fluhman, CNP (*supervised by Mark Van Wormer, MD*)
- Jamie Armijo, CNP (*supervised by Mark Van Wormer, MD*)
- Jessica Wright, CNP (*supervised by Mark Van Wormer, MD*)

<b>Policy/Procedure Title</b>	Risk Management: Confidential Incident Reporting	<b>Policy #</b>	
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NOW, and until a provider is available at Union County General Hospital who wishes not to opt out:

1. Union County General Hospital's Providers are opting out of the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act and will not provide patients a prescription for the medical aid in dying.
2. Union County General Hospital's Providers' decision to opt out of the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act will have no effect on Union County General Hospital's palliative /comfort care as needed for all patients.

In order to comply with the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of Life Options Act, Union County General Hospital will:

1. Notify Patients of our Provider's decision to Opt-Out of the Act.
  - a. Union County General Hospital will post this policy "accurately and clearly" on our web site.
  - b. Union County General Hospital will provide appropriate written materials notifying patients of the Hospital's Providers' decision to opt-out of the Act.
2. Provide Patients Seeking the Medical Aid in Dying with a Referral
  - a. Union County General Hospital Providers will provide the patients with either (1) a referral to a health care provider who does provide these services or (2) a referral to another health care provider or health care entity that can assist the patient in seeking the medical aid in dying. *Id.* Sec. 7(C).

<b>Original Effective Date:</b>	5/26/2021				
	<b>Reviewed and/or Revised Dates</b>				
	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Review Date:</b>					
<b>Revised Date:</b>					
<b>Supersedes:</b>					
<b>By:</b>					