

HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE MANITOBA

Policy Manual

HPCM Position Statement on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

HPCM strongly advocates for palliative care services to be accessible to all dying persons.

Competent palliative care can relieve pain and suffering of individuals and their families with a terminal illness.

Full development of accessible palliative care services would be jeopardized by legalizing euthanasia or assisted suicide.

HPCM is opposed to legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide.

HPCM accepts the following definitions:

§ **Palliative Care** - is active, compassionate care of a person whose disease is no longer responsive to treatment aimed at a cure. Palliative care seeks to neither hasten nor postpone death. The relief of suffering - physical, emotional and spiritual - is the primary goal of palliative care.

§ **Euthanasia** - is the intentional termination of another person's life through administration of a lethal agent, for compassionate purposes, with that person's fully informed competent and persistent request.

§ **Assisted Suicide** - is the provision of means to a patient to enable the intentional ending of life at the patient's fully informed, competent and persistent request.

Passed by: The Board of Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba
March 22, 2001