End of Life Options

- BCH recognizes and supports terminally ill patients and their loved ones in making informed health care decisions, including decisions regarding the patient’s end-of-life options.

- BCH supports the purpose of the Act to allow adult, terminally ill patients with decisional capacity to request aid-in-dying medications from an attending physician in order to mitigate suffering and shorten a prolonged dying process.

- BCH recognizes that medical aid-in-dying medication, as described in the Act, is one option in the spectrum of options for end-of-life care. BCH is committed to informing terminally ill patients about the full range of end-of-life options, including hospice, palliative care and pain management, as well as the potential use of medical aid-in-dying medication.

- BCH neither encourages nor discourages participation in medical-aid-in-dying by BCH employees, physicians, and providers. Participation is entirely voluntary. Only those employees, physicians, and providers who are willing and desire to so should participate in medical-aid-dying processes.

- BCH allows individuals working at its facilities, both employees and non-employees, to participate in the following activities authorized by the Act, subject to the restrictions of this Policy:
  - Perform the duties of an attending or consulting physician or mental health professional;
  - Prescribe medications under the Act;
  - Be present when a patient self-administers aid-in-dying medication, so long as not on the premises of a BCH facility; and
  - Participate in patient, family and provider support related to medical-aid-dying.

- Physicians acting as attending physicians under the Act must be granted appropriate clinical privileges and comply with this Policy in order to perform medical aid-in-dying functions in a BCH facility or as a BCH employee.

- BCH does not permit the ingestion or self-administration of aid-dying-medications on the premises of any BCH facility. No physician or other health care provider or BCH staff may assist any patient in the self-administration of aid-in-dying medication or dispense aid-in-dying medication as an employee of BCH or on the premises of any BCH facility.

- Inquiry and discussion of a request for aid-in-dying medication is permitted during a patient’s hospitalization and in BCH clinics and other outpatient settings. Additionally, an attending physician may prescribe aid-in-dying medication in a clinic or other outpatient setting or to an inpatient, so long as all requirements of the Act and this Policy are met, and self-administration of the medication is not intended to occur on the premises of a BCH facility.

- BCH will not subject any physician, provider or employee to any disciplinary action, restriction of privilege or other penalty or sanction for actions taken in good faith under the Act and in accordance with this Policy or for declining to participate in any process under the Act or this Policy.