

QVMC opts out of 'Death with Dignity'

Hospital joins other Grant County facilities

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The Quincy Valley Medical Center's board of directors unanimously chose to opt out of the state's new "Death with Dignity" law last week.

The law, which was approved by voters as Initiative 1000 last fall, allows patients who have been diagnosed to have less than six months to live to receive a prescription for lethal medication. Hospitals and physicians have the right to opt out of providing the service.

The Quincy hospital board held a special meeting to discuss the issue on Wednesday, March 4.

"I couldn't find anyone who has ownership in this hospital who wanted to see us go for-

ward with this," said board member Anthony Gonzalez before making a motion to opt out of the program.

The board agreed and voted unanimously to not provide the service at the hospital.

Hospital administrator Merhdi Merred said the hospital's staff was not in favor of participating in the program.

He added that physicians at the hospital could participate in the Death with Dignity act off of hospital property if they so choose.

Other hospitals in the region have also chosen to opt out, including Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee, Columbia Basin Hospital in Ephrata and Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake. Wenatchee Valley Medical Center has opted to participate in the program.