

LAKE HOSPITAL SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL

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SUBJECT:  
FUTILE TREATMENT GUIDELINES

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**PHILOSOPHY:**

Lake Hospital System is dedicated to provide the best medical care within the framework of the values and goals of patients and the legitimate boundaries of medical science. Comfort care, including relief of pain, will always be made available.

Lake Hospital System pledges to work with patients and their families to find the best solutions for individual cases. The hospital recognizes that special circumstances may make the expeditious or arbitrary application of these guidelines for medical futility *inapplicable*. Such situations could include, but would not be limited to providing reasonable time for a distant relative to come to the bedside of the dying person, for a patient to put his or her affairs in order, or to allow families who might disagree with the removal of futile treatments for religious or other reasons sufficient time to transfer the patient to another appropriate facility.

Physicians have the responsibility to provide only treatment that has the possibility of being beneficial to the patient.

*The physician, other health care professionals, patient, and/or family may request a consultation with the Ethics Committee, so that all parties may have a fuller understanding of the issues in deciding a particular case.*

Futile treatment is any medical intervention, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, that is not medically indicated. A treatment is not medically indicated when and if the physician and his or her consultants, consistent with available medical information and standard of care, determine that the treatment cannot achieve the intended goal of improved patient welfare.