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| Withholding or Withdrawing Life-Sustaining Care | **Last Revision:** | November 2016 |
| **Last Reviewed:** | November 2017 |
| **Applies to the following THA Group of Companies:** | * Island Health Care * Independent Life at Home * RightHealth® |
| **Included in the following THA Manual:** | Administrative Policies & Procedures  Ethics, Rights, & Responsibilities |

### POLICY

1. Clinicians who receive a request from a patient or caregiver to withhold/withdraw life-sustaining care contact the Director of Patient Centered Care (DPCC) prior to taking any action. Examples of care rendered in the home that could potentially prolong life may include, but are not limited to:
   1. Tube feedings
   2. Intravenous therapy and/or medications
   3. Oxygen therapy
   4. Ventilators
   5. Apnea monitors
2. The DPCC coordinates communication between the patient, family and physician as needed and documents all communication and decisions in the medical record.
3. If the physician and patient or families are not in agreement, the DPCC will convene an ad hoc Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee then recommends a course of action to be taken in response to the patient or caregiver’s request.
4. The Ethics Committee is composed of members of the Coordinating Council and may include additional clinical and ethical expertise and consultation as deemed appropriate to the situation.
5. Any direct actions taken by the clinician are consistent with the recommendations of the Ethics Committee and documented with a physician’s order.