



ASPMN Position Statement on Assisted Suicide

The American Society of Pain Management Nurses is a national organization of more than 1,500 pain management nurses dedicated to promoting and providing optimal care of patients in pain. This is accomplished through education, standards, advocacy and research. In accordance with our commitment to compassionate care for all individuals, we support the position statements by the American Nurses' Association (ANA) on active euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The ANA statements assert that, "Nurses individually and collectively have an obligation to provide comprehensive and compassionate end of life care which includes the promotion of comfort and the relief of pain, and at times, foregoing life-sustaining treatments". The ANA *Code for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* and the ethical traditions of our profession state that nurses should not participate in assisted suicide or active euthanasia.

In endorsing these position statements, the American Society of Pain Management Nurses acknowledges several important issues:

The American Society of Pain Management Nurses supports improved access for pain management services and other modalities that will benefit terminally ill patients and their families.

Pain Management Nurses should advocate for healthcare environments that provide humane and dignified care of the dying.