

## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis is focused on withdrawing and withholding life-sustaining treatment, which represents a complicated multidisciplinary issue. The current Czech legislation on this issue shows many imperfections that should be resolved. In accordance with the current legislation it is possible to withdraw or withhold life-sustaining treatment based on futile care reasoning or based on refusal of such treatment by the patient in the form of informed dissent or advance directives. However, the practical application of the above stated reasons is rather problematic.

In case of unlawful withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining treatment, the physician may face a criminal prosecution, and from December 2016 it will also be possible to prosecute medical facility for patient's death. With respect to the severity of the consequences connected with withdrawing and withholding of life-sustaining treatment and in order to increase the legal certainty of physicians and patients, it is necessary to resolve current legal imperfections and clearly define the conditions of withdrawing and withholding life-sustaining treatment under which physicians are exempted from criminal liability.