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Owner: Sarah Brown: VP Risk and Regulatory
Policy Area: Risk Management
Reference: Policy

End of Life Options - Death with Dignity

POLICY:

Confluence Health (CH) and its affiliates acknowledges that Washington law recognizes certain rights and responsibilities of qualified patients, health care providers, and health care organizations under the Washington Death with Dignity Act ("Act") also known as Initiative 1000. This policy describes participation under this Act by Confluence Health and its affiliates.

- A. Confluence Health will not permit life-ending medications obtained through the Act to be administered or ingested at any CH campus.
- B. All providers at Confluence Health are expected to respond to any patient's query about life-ending medication with openness and compassion. Our goal is to help ensure patients are educated thoroughly to make informed decisions about options for and participation in end-of-life care, including Palliative Care and Hospice Care.
- C. All physicians on the CH medical staff are permitted to make their own individual decisions on their level of participation in the Act. Those that choose to participate should become familiar with the reporting obligations and other requirements of the Act.
- D. All CH pharmacists are permitted to choose whether or not to fill a prescription for medications under the Act. If the pharmacist does not wish to participate in filling the prescription, the pharmacist may facilitate a referral to a willing pharmacist if known or shall notify the prescribing physician.
- E. No patient will be denied other medical care or treatment because of the patient's participation under the Act.

PROCEDURE:

- A. If a patient requests to participate in the Act, and the physician does not wish to participate, the physician may make a referral to another physician who does participate if a physician is known. Referral to Palliative Care and Hospice Care should also be considered.
- B. It is the participating physician's responsibility to ensure the correct procedures as required by the Act are followed and the required documentation is completed in accordance with the Act.
- C. It is the participating pharmacist's responsibility to ensure the correct procedures as required by the Act are followed and the required documentation is completed in accordance with the Act.

RESOURCES:

Any physician, pharmacist, provider, or patient seeking additional information about the choices or requirements of the Act may contact the following for consultation or advice:

- A. Confluence Health Ethics Committee
- B. Confluence Health Palliative Care Team
- C. V.P. of Risk and Regulatory
- D. End of Life Washington (<https://endoflifewa.org>)

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- A. Pre-PolicyStat Policy Number – 1065
- B. Initiative 1000/Washington Death with Dignity Act, codified as RCW 70.245
- C. Attending Physician Responsibilities under the Death with Dignity Act at RCW 70.245.040
- D. Death with Dignity Act Requirements, Chapter 246-978 WAC
- E. The Oregon Death with Dignity Act: A Guidebook for Health Care Professionals
- F. ****Note: policy must be published on the DOH Hospital and Confluence Health websites as updates occur.**

ADDITIONAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY:

- A. Confluence Health Ethics Committee (9/25/18)
- B. Medical Executive Committee (date 9/28/18)

Attachments:

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
PolicyStat Administrator	Heather Fennell: Licensing and Policy Analyst	10/1/2018
CAO	James Wood: Chief Administrative Officer	10/1/2018
VP	Sarah Brown: VP Risk and Regulatory	9/28/2018
	Sarah Brown: VP Risk and Regulatory	9/28/2018

Applicability

Confluence Health