

PURPOSE

To recognize the Washington State “Death with Dignity Act,” herein referred to as the “Act” (RCW 70.245/WAC 246-978), the Board of Commissioners Resolution No. 428 regarding this Act, and the Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5179 (Effective 7/23/23)

POLICY

OMC will allow its health care providers to participate in the process set forth in the Act if they so choose and respects the right of any health care provider to decline to participate in activities specific to the Act, subject to the provisions of this and any other applicable hospital policies.

OMC will comply with House Bill 1608 – Providing Information to Patients by providing a copy of the information regarding this law at the time of hire, contracting, privileging and yearly thereafter to health care providers and staff.

OMC will comply with The Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-12) which prohibits the use of Federal funds to provide or pay for any health care item or service, or health benefit coverage, for the purpose of causing, or assisting to cause, the death of any individual including mercy killing, euthanasia, or assisted suicide.

This means that qualified health care providers (defined as a person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by law to administer health care or dispense medication in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession, and includes a healthcare facility) who are willing to participate, are employed and properly credentialed by OMC may, as otherwise allowed:

- Perform the duties of an attending physician;
- Perform the duties of a consulting physician;
- Prescribe a life-ending dose of medication;
- Provide counseling in connection with the provision of a life-ending dose of medication; and/or
- Perform other duties as provided for in the Act.

Health Care providers who decline to participate may:

- Refer the patient to other resources that can provide such support

All Qualified health care providers who participate in the Act must follow the laws and regulations surrounding the Act, and ensure that they take all required actions and file all required documents with the State as required by the Act.

DISPENSING AND INGESTING OF A LETHAL DOSE OF MEDICATION:

The OMC position is that its acute care hospital and its clinics are not the appropriate setting for patients who are at the stage of taking life-ending medications.

Death with Dignity Act

In accordance with Board Resolution No. 428, the final actions ending a patient's life, under the specifications of this Death with Dignity Act, shall **not** occur on or within the premises of the hospital or in clinics operated by the District. The patient's self-administration of the lethal medication is not permitted on the District's premises. Also, the medication for this purpose will **not** be dispensed from the hospital pharmacy.

PROCEDURE

Please check for the current forms and standards at
[Forms for Patients and Providers | Washington State Department of Health \(7/23/2023\)](#)

Laws/Regulations

Initiative 1000/ Washington Death with Dignity Act:
[Death with Dignity Act | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Frequently asked Questions about Death with Dignity

[Frequently Asked Questions About Death With Dignity | Washington State Department of Health](#)

| Date of Change | Description of Change |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07/26/2023 | Revisions made by OMP Director and Chief Physician Officer |
| 12/27/2021 | Converted version to 7.0 MCN. Previous Name: 11.21.01 – Death with Dignity Act |
| 6/1/2009 | Original Effective Date |