



Origination Date 8/14/2024
Last Approved 8/14/2024
Effective 8/14/2024
Last Revised 8/14/2024
Next Review 8/14/2027

Owner Melissa Cano:
Home Health and
Hospice Manager
Policy Area Hospice
References RCW

Hospice: Death with Dignity

POLICY:

Confluence Health Home Care Services - Hospice (CH HCS - Hospice) 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 (DWD Act) also known as Initiative 1000. This policy describes DWD Act -related services that are and are not generally available while under the care of CH HCS - Hospice.

- A. Hospice medical providers may participate as Consulting providers only.
- B. Hospice staff/volunteers may not be present in the patient room at the time of ingestion of DWD Act medications, but may be present in the patient residence at the time of ingestion.
- C. Hospice staff/volunteers may be present only after ingestion.
- D. Hospice staff/volunteers may not transport DWD Act medications from the pharmacy to the patient's residence.
- E. Hospice staff/volunteers may not witness a patient's written request for DWD Act medications.
- F. Hospice staff/volunteers may not assist with medication preparation.
- G. If necessary, Hospice staff may place a rectal catheter for the purpose of self-administration of DWD Act medications.
- H. Ingestion of DWD Act medications will not occur on any Confluence Health facility.

PROCEDURES:

- A. To participate in the DWD Act, a terminally ill patient must be:

1. 18 years of age or older
 2. Able to make and communicate an informed decision to health care providers
 3. Diagnosed with an incurable and irreversible disease that will produce death within six months
 4. A Washington resident
- B. If a patient requests to participate in the DWD Act, they must make a written request to an attending qualified medical provider in addition to two oral requests, made at least seven days apart.
- C. If the physician does not wish to participate, the physician may make a referral to another physician who does participate if a physician is known.
- D. It is the participating physician's responsibility to ensure the correct procedures as required by the DWD Act are followed and the required documentation is completed in accordance with the DWD Act.
- E. It is the participating pharmacist's responsibility to ensure the correct procedures as required by the DWD Act are followed and the required documentation is completed in accordance with the DWD Act.

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- A. RCW 70.245
- B. 246-978 WAC
- C. SB 5179 (Laws of 2023)
- D. [End of Life Washington](#)
- E. CH Policy: [End of Life Options - Death with Dignity](#)

ADDITIONAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY:

- A. Sarah Brown, VP Risk and Regulatory 7/16/24

****Note: policy must be published on the [WA DOH Hospice Policies website](#) as updates occur.**

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
PolicyStat Administrator	Crista Davis: Regulatory Standards Coordinator	8/14/2024

CFO	Thomas Legel: Chief Financial Officer	8/14/2024
VP	Laurie Bergman: VP Population Health & Health Equity	8/2/2024
Medical Reviewer	Charles McCormick: PHYS MGR - Geriatrics Palliative Care	7/30/2024
Director	Rebecca Davenport: Home Health & Hospice Director	7/17/2024
	Tana White: Home Health and Hospice Manager	7/17/2024

Standards

No standards are associated with this document