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Seattle Children's
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

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End of Life Care Policy, 15039

Policy/Procedure

PURPOSE:

This policy outlines patient access to end-of-life care at Seattle Children's Hospital.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all patients at Seattle Children's Hospital, including those admitted to inpatient units, those being cared for in the emergency department, and those being cared for in ambulatory settings.

POLICY:

Seattle Children's Hospital works closely with patients and their caregivers/families to tailor end-of-life care to their needs and values. In alignment with [Patient Rights](#) (see Your Rights and Responsibilities, seattlechildrens.org/rr), Seattle Children's ensures all patients, and caregivers (legal representatives) as applicable, are informed of the patient's diagnosis, treatment options, and risks in terms they can understand, in order to participate in all aspects of care.

End of life care services provided by Seattle Children's Hospital include, as applicable:

- A wide range of therapies aimed at patient comfort, including consultation on pain and symptom management
- Palliative care
- Spiritual care

- End of life education to patients and caregivers/families
- Ethics consultation services to providers, patients, and caregivers/families
- Written information on Advance Directives ([Advance Directives in the State of Washington](#)) when required
- Working closely with community agencies to establish hospice, hospice-concurrent care, in-home palliative care, or other home services to qualifying patients, when desired
- Bereavement program for caregivers/families

Seattle Children's Hospital complies with the Washington State Death with Dignity Act.

Seattle Children's is a pediatric hospital, with most patients under 18 years of age. As such, the applicability of some end of life care requirements may be limited to only those patients who are 18 years of age or older and who fulfill the criteria under those regulations.

RESOURCES

[Seattle Children's End of Life Care Services Form](#)

REFERENCES:

Washington Administrative Code (WAC). (2013, December 23). [WAC 246-320-141](#), Patient rights and organizational ethics.

[Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\) 70.41.520](#), Access to care policies for admission, nondiscrimination, and reproductive health care—Requirement to submit, post on web site, and use department-created form

Washington Administrative Code (WAC). (2023). [WAC 246-978](#), Death with Dignity Act Requirements.

CMS Conditions of Participation, [42 CFR 482.13\(b\)](#)

DNV, Patient Rights, PR.2 Patient Rights, Specific Rights, PR.3 Patient Rights, Advance Directive, PR.5 Patient Rights, Informed Consent.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Release for Publication	Dale Landis: Sr. Director, Accreditation, Reg Compliance & Quality	1/6/2025
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Executive Leadership	Bonnie Fryzlewicz: SVP & Chief Nursing Officer	12/16/2024
Document Quality Control	Erin White: Program Manager III	12/15/2024
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Applicability

Seattle Children's Hospital

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