

Logo for All Policies Site - CHI
Franciscan Health System

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Owner Michael Cox: SVP
Mission
Integration
Policy Area Corporate Ethics/
Privacy
Applicability VMFH and its
affiliated entities,
as applicable
References Administrative,
RegCompliance

End of Life, 044.00

PURPOSE

Provide general guidance and support for our Virginia Mason Franciscan Health (VMFH) and its affiliated entities, as applicable, on end of life care.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health provides high quality health care to everyone in our care, recognizing each person's inherent dignity as a unique expression of life. We value informed consent and all clinicians are supported in disclosing all options with their patients, including interventions not available at our facilities in a non-directive manner with a safe transfer of care when requested. VMFH does not participate in the Washington State Death with Dignity Act at any of our facilities.

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health provides care to all patients across the lifespan. End of life care is provided to all patients, regardless of their participation under the act, and our clinicians seek to ensure patients are kept as free of pain as possible so that they may die comfortably and with dignity. Virginia Mason Franciscan Health honors patient's advance directives, including those that outline a preference to forgo life-sustaining treatments.

Extraordinary means to sustain life need not be utilized when death appears to be imminent and inevitable.

PATIENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- A. Access to Spiritual Care Services, Hospice Care and Palliative Medical Services are available within Virginia Mason Franciscan Health facilities to support the quality of end of life.
- B. Virginia Mason Franciscan Health will provide each adult patient with information about their rights under Washington (WA) state law to make the decision concerning such medical care, including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment and the right to formulate Advance Directives.
- C. Initiating Ethics Committee Consults, may be requested to advise on policy statements and guidelines for decision-making where ethical considerations are involved. Medical Staff, staff and family/surrogate decision makers may request a consultation. See: [Initiating Ethics Consult Policy #370.00](#)

REFERENCES

[The Ethical and Religious Directives](#) for Catholic Health Care Services, Sixth edition (See: Issues in Care for the Seriously Ill and Dying Introduction and ERDs 57, 61; The Professional-Patient Relationship Introduction and ERDs 24, 26-28)

REQUIRED REVIEW

Senior Vice President of Mission, Division Vice President of Ethics and Theology

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Final Step	Joan VanSickle: Document Control Coordinator	09/2023
Reviewer	Laura Webster: Div VP Ethics	09/2023
	Michael Cox: SVP Mission Integration	09/2023