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Department CQI #1

Reproductive Policy

Policy

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Purpose

To define patients rights in regards to Reproductive Health

The sovereign people hereby declare that every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy with respect to personal reproductive decisions.

Accordingly, it is the public policy of the state of Washington and North Valley Hospital that:

- (1) Every individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse birth control;
- (2) Every woman has the fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion, except as specifically limited by RCW 9.02.100 through 9.02.170 and 9.02.900 through 9.02.902;
- (3) Except as specifically permitted by RCW 9.02.100 through 9.02.170 and 9.02.900 through 9.02.902, the state shall not deny or interfere with a woman's fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion; and
- (4) The state shall not discriminate against the exercise of these rights in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, or information.

Consistent with the previously-noted provisions of Washington law, NVH permits its healthcare providers to opt out of participating in a termination if they object to participating for reason of conscience or religion.

NVH facilities are available to its healthcare providers to perform surgical terminations, including dilation and curettage procedures, dilation and evacuation procedures, and inductions. NVH provides surgical termination services directly to patients requesting those services when physicians and support staff

agree to participate in that termination. To not provide those termination services at NVH in the event that NVH providers and/or staff exercise their legal right to opt out of participating in a termination, NVH will provide information to assist in the referral of patients to qualified providers in our region whose employees do not exercise their legal right to opt out of participating in such terminations.

NVH facilities are available to its healthcare providers to provide medication terminations. NVH provides medication termination services directly to patients requesting those services when physicians and support staff agree to participate in that termination. To not provide medication termination services at NVH facilities in the event that NVH providers and/or staff exercise their legal right to opt out of participating in that termination, NVH will provide information to assist in the referral of patients to qualified providers in our region whose employees do not exercise their legal right to opt out of participating in such terminations.

NVH provides the above women's and family health planning services' as part of the patient-provider relationship established through NVH's community wellness services. By integrating women and family health planning services across all of its services lines NVH helps protect the identity of its patients seeking termination services by not holding them separate and distinct from other patient populations. NVH strives to treat all patients with equality and in a welcoming manner that is free from discrimination based on a patient's expressed preferences related to women's and reproductive healthcare services.

Emergency Abortion Care in Hospitals Providing Emergency Services

Hospitals that provide emergency services are required to provide immediate access to abortion services or, if authorized under RCW 70.170.060(2), WAC 246-320-281(1), and other applicable state and federal law, secure a transfer to another hospital when necessary to meet the needs of patients presenting to their emergency departments with an emergency medical condition.

Under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-320-281(8), "[i]f providing emergency services, hospitals must assure emergency equipment, supplies, and services necessary to meet the needs of presenting patients are immediately available." Hospital leaders are likewise required to "[p]rovide all patients access to safe and appropriate care" under WAC 246-320-136(5). The care that is necessary, safe, and appropriate is determined according to the applicable standard of care. These legal requirements apply to hospitals as defined in WAC 246-320-010(27).

Under the foregoing provisions of law, if a pregnant person presents to a hospital's emergency department with an emergency medical condition for which termination of the pregnancy is the standard of care, the hospital is required to provide that abortion care in accordance with and as promptly as dictated by the standard of care or, if authorized under RCW 70.170.060(2), WAC 246-320-281(1), and other applicable state and federal law, transfer the patient to another hospital capable of providing the care.

Resources

Washington State DOH RCW's stated above. **This Policy is a DOH Policy Requirement***

Washington’s Reproductive Privacy Act [Chapter 9.02 RCW](#), [Subsection .160](#), [Subsection .170\(b\)](#) and [Subsection .150\(1\)](#), Washington’s Health Care Access Act, [Chapter 70.47 RCW](#), [Subsection . 160\(1\)](#) and [Subsection . 160\(2\)](#)

Information available at <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-washington-north-idaho> .

Any changes must be submitted to the Department of Health within 30 days of a change and an updated policy must be posted on the hospital district website.

All Revision Dates

06/2024, 08/2019, 06/2019, 11/2015, 07/2014

Attachments

[Emergency Abortion Care Policy Statement HSQA 2401.pdf](#)

[NVH Reproductive Health Services.pdf](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
	Marcia Naillon: CNO	06/2024
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