

**OCEAN BEACH HOSPITAL
HEALTHCARE ACCESS MANAGEMENT**
Ilwaco, Washington 98624

POLICY – PROCEDURE

ADVANCED DIRECTIVES

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide an atmosphere of respect and caring and to ensure that each patient's ability and right to participate in medical decision-making is maximized and not compromised as a result of admission for care through Ocean Beach Hospital. Additionally, the purpose of this policy is to assure compliance with the Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA) in such a manner as to expand the patient, personnel and community knowledge base regarding advance directives and the process by which patient participation in medical decision-making is carried out at this facility.

POLICY:

It is the policy of Ocean Beach Hospital to respect and encourage patient self-determination. Patients will be encouraged and assisted to be active participants in the decision making process regarding their care through education, inquiry and assistance as requested. Patients will be encouraged to communicate their desires in regard to advance directives to their significant others, to allow for guidance of significant others and healthcare providers in following the patient's wishes should the patient become incapacitated, rendering them unable to make decisions. The existence of an advance directive, or lack thereof, will **not** determine the patient's access to care, treatment and services.

PROCEDURE:

- An inquiry will be made by the Healthcare Access Department during the admissions process of the patient, or if the patient is incapacitated, to the patient's legal representative (as allowed under state law), as to whether or not the patient has completed an advance directive. Ocean Beach Hospital shall not condition the provision of care or otherwise discriminate against any individual based on whether or not the individual has executed an advance directive.
- A request of the patient/representative to provide a copy of the advance directive for medical record entry will be made by the Healthcare Access Department during the admission process.
- As part of the admission process the patient/representative will be provided with an information packet outlining the individual's rights to make decisions concerning medical care. The information packet provided will include:

- The right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, even if the treatment is life-sustaining;
 - Information concerning the Patient Self-Determination Act;
 - Ocean Beach Hospital's mission and value statements and policies regarding refusal of medical treatment, including life-sustaining measures;
 - That the existence of an advance directive, or lack thereof, will not determine the patient's right to care, treatment or services;
 - Definitions of pertinent healthcare terminology as they apply to the Patient Self-Determination Act;
 - Policy regarding the patient's right to voice a complaint related to advance directive requirements to the State Department of Health Services;
 - Contact personnel available to assist those interested in pursuing the advance directive issue.
 - Information regarding the PSDA will be provided to the patient upon each admission to Ocean Beach Hospital.
- Healthcare Access Department personnel will document in the medical record whether the patient has completed an advance directive and that information concerning advance directives has been given to the patient/representative during the admission process.
 - In the event that the patient bypasses the routine admissions process due to nature or severity of illness, and is admitted directly to the patient care units, the responsibility to inquire about advance directives and provide necessary information as outlined above, will be followed up with a bedside registration done by the Healthcare Access Associate on duty.
 - Should the patient present as a repeat admission, with information obtained by the admitting group indicating there is an advance directive in the previous medical record, the nursing staff will have the responsibility to review the existing advance directive with the patient/representative to validate its current status.
 - In the event the patient/representative indicates that the previous advance directive does not accurately reflect the patient's wishes, a revised advance directive must be submitted and must meet all advance directive regulations.
 - To the extent that the patient/representative requests additional information or further explanation regarding the PSDA or advance directives, referrals will be made to Patient Advocate/Social Worker for follow-up interaction with patient and/or representative, as appropriate.
 - Should the patient wish to formulate an advance directive while receiving services in this institution, the Patient Advocate/Social Services Department will be contacted to assist the patient or refer the patient as necessary to accomplish the desire to formulate the directives.

- There will be availability of the Ethics Committee to discuss patient rights issues as needed, through the Medical Staff Office. All requests from patients/representative, hospital personnel and/or medical staff members to institute the Ethics Committee process will be honored.
- All follow-up education and interaction with the patient/representative will be documented in the medical record by the individual designated to interact with the patient/representative regarding their concerns surrounding advance directives.
- In order to ensure that an opportunity for patient participation in medical decision-making is maximized, and that care provided is consistent with patient values and directives, educational information about advance directives will be provided. Ocean Beach Hospital's policies, mission and value statements regarding advance directives and withholding of life-sustaining measures will be provided to the medical, allied health professional and hospital staff on a periodic basis and as necessary. Information will be provided through a collaborative effort with all disciplines via in-service format as well as the Orientation process.
- In order to assure that the community is served by this organization, education concerning advance directives and the PSDA shall be provided through community forums or written material made available at Ocean Beach Hospital.



Ocean Beach Hospital & Medical Clinics

POLICY

TITLE: NON-PARTICIPATION DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT/INITIATIVE
1000

PURPOSE: DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT/INITIATIVE 1000 – HOSPITAL AND ITS PROVIDERS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE

POLICY: 1. Washington law recognizes certain rights and responsibilities of qualified patients and health care providers under the Death with Dignity Act (“Act”). Under Washington law, a health care provider, including Ocean Beach Hospital is not required to assist a qualified patient in ending that patient’s life.

2. Ocean Beach Hospital has chosen to not participate under the Death with Dignity Act. This means that in the performance of their duties, Ocean Beach Hospital physicians, employees, independent contractors and volunteers shall not assist a patient in ending the patient’s life under the Act. In addition, no provider may participate on the premises of the hospital or in property owned by the hospital.

3. No patient will be denied other medical care or treatment because of the patient’s participation under the Act. The patient will be treated in the same manner as all other Ocean Beach Hospital patients. The appropriate standard of care will be followed.

4. Any patient wishing to receive life-ending medication while a patient at this hospital will be assisted in transfer to another facility of the patient’s choice. The transfer will assure continuity of care.

5. All providers at Ocean Beach Hospital are expected to respond to any patient’s query about life-ending medication with openness and compassion. Ocean Beach Hospital believes our providers have an obligation to openly discuss the patient’s concerns, unmet needs, feelings, and desires about the dying process. Providers should seek to learn the meaning behind the patient’s questions and help the patient understand the range of available options, including but not limited to comfort care, hospice care, and pain control. Ultimately, Ocean Beach Hospital goal is to help patients make informed decisions about end-of-life care.

PROCEDURE:

1. All patients will be provided with educational materials about end-of-life options. These materials will include a statement that Ocean Beach Hospital does not participate in the Act.

2. If, as a result of learning of Ocean Beach Hospital’s decision not to participate in the Act, the patient wishes to have care transferred to another hospital of the patient’s choice, Ocean Beach Hospital staff will assist in making arrangements for the transfer. If the

patient wishes to remain at Ocean Beach Hospital staff will discuss what end of life care will be provided consistent with hospital policy.

3. If a patient requests a referral to a physician who will fully participate under the Act or expresses the desire to take medication that will result in the patient's death, the provider may choose to provide the patient with a referral, or may instruct the patient that he or she must find a participating provider on his or her own. The relevant medical records will be transferred to the physician taking over the patient's care. The patient's primary clinical care giver (nurse or social worker) will be responsible for:

- a. Informing the patient's attending physician as soon as possible, and no longer than one working day, that the patient wishes to take life-ending medications.
- b. Ensuring that the medical record is complete and all required documentation is included. A copy of the Resuscitation Status (DNR) order, copies of advance directives, and POLST form are to be included.
- c. Communicating with other clinicians involved with the patient to ensure continuity of care.
- d. Documenting all communication in the patient's medical record.

4. Nothing in this policy prevents a physician or provider from making an initial determination that the patient has a terminal disease and informing the patient of the medical prognosis.

5. Nothing in this policy prevents a physician or provider from providing information about the "Washington State Death with Dignity Act" to a patient when the patient requests information.

6. Nothing in this policy prohibits a physician who is employed by or who is an independent contractor of Ocean Beach Hospital from participating under the Act when not functioning within the scope of his or her capacity as an employee or independent contractor of Ocean Beach Hospital.

SANCTIONS

If a provider participates in the Act beyond what is allowed in the policy, Ocean Beach Hospital may impose sanctions on that provider. Ocean Beach Hospital shall follow due process procedures provided for in the medical staff bylaws. Sanctions may include:

- Loss of medical staff privileges;
- Termination of lease or other property contract
- Termination of contracts

RESOURCES

Any patient, employee, independent contractor, volunteer or physician may contact the Ethics Committee, Spiritual Care, Social Services, or Patient Advocate for assistance.

Laws/Regulations:

Initiative 1000/Washington Death with Dignity Act
Washington State Department of Health Regulations Chapter 246-978 WAC (Currently at CR-102 stage)

Reference Materials:

The Oregon Death with Dignity Act: A Guidebook for Health Care Professionals

REFERENCES:

Forms:

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Policy:

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