



Hospital End of Life Services

In accordance with SB 5179 (Laws of 2023), the purpose of this form is to provide the public with information about which end-of-life services are and are not generally available at each hospital. **Please contact the hospital directly if you have questions.**

Hospital name: **St. Joseph Medical Center**

Physical address: **1717 S J Street**

City: **Tacoma**

State: **WA**

ZIP Code: **98405**

Hospital contact: **Jennifer Schomburg**

Contact phone #: **253 426-4101**

An acute care hospital may not be the appropriate setting for all end-of-life services listed below.

Some end-of-life services are most appropriately available through hospice care centers, hospice agency services, or outpatient settings, depending on the specific patient circumstances.

The following checked end-of-life services are generally available at the above listed hospital:

Advance Care Planning

- Has written policies & procedures on advance care planning and advance directives.
- Offers information & support for advance care planning including written information on the patient's right to make decisions concerning medical care, the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, the right to formulate advance directives, & the hospital's policies respecting the implementation of such rights.
- Asks patients about advance care planning and documents whether or not a patient has an advance directive.
- Assists patients with advance care planning.

End-of-Life and Palliative Care Services

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides end-of-life education to patients <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides an evaluation of treatment options <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides hospice care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides palliative care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides spiritual care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides ethics consultation services to providers and patients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides referrals and resources on community resources & education on palliative care. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides consultation about pain & symptom management. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process to review and honor Portable Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment forms. |
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Washington State Death with Dignity (DWD) Act

*Pursuant to the DWD Act, RCW 70.245.190, individual providers and facilities may choose whether or not to participate in the DWD Act. "Participate" means to perform the duties of the attending qualified medical provider, the consulting qualified medical provider, or the counseling function under the DWD Act.

Allows providers to participate in the Death with Dignity Act at the hospital*

Regardless of whether or not a hospital participates in the DWD Act, the hospital supports providers to:

- Certify that a patient has a terminal disease and provide the patient information about the medical prognosis pursuant to documentation required under the DWD Act.
 - Give information about the DWD Act to a patient upon request, including information about what relevant resources are available and how to access them.
 - Document a patient's first written request for medication that the patient may self-administer to end their life in a humane and dignified manner in the patient's medical record per the DWD Act
 - Refer or transfer care of a patient to another attending or consulting qualified medical provider.
- Provides death with dignity educational materials
 - Hospital pharmacies are permitted to dispense prescriptions in accordance with the purposes of the DWD Act.
 - Permits patients to self-administer DWD medication at the hospital

Comments on next page

Signature:

Signed by: **Jim Terwilliger**

Date: **01/12/2024**

Comments; limitations on services; other services:

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.

Form Clarifications:

*Education materials may be simple and/or be directions to outside easily available resources.

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health supports providers in all of the below:

- 1) Certify that a patient has a terminal disease and provide the patient information about the medical prognosis pursuant to documentation required under the DWD Act.
- 2) Give information about the DWD Act to a patient upon request, including information about what relevant resources are available and how to access them.
- 3) Document a patient's first written request for medication that the patient may self-administer to end their life in a humane and dignified manner in the patient's medical record per the DWD Act
- 4) Provide a safe transfer care of a patient to another attending or consulting qualified medical provider.

Signature:



Signed by: **Jim Terwilliger**

Date: **01/12/2024**

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.