



Garfield County  
Hospital District  
Caring for Generations

Origination: 11/2011  
Effective: 10/2020  
Last Approved: 10/2020  
Last Revised: 03/2019  
Next Review: 10/2021  
Owner: Jayd Keener: DNS  
Department: Acute Care  
References:

## End of Life Care

### Purpose:

In keeping with the mission and values of Garfield County Hospital District, the following will be a guide for providing the dignity and respect expected during end-of-life care.

### Procedure:

1. The goal is **comfort**-for the patient, family and staff.
2. LN staff may arrange for a private room if family would be more comfortable.
3. Keep skin clean and dry
4. Clothing with some color, or if wearing a hospital gown, provide a colorful blanket over the resident will keep them from looking grayer or so pale.
5. Keep the head of the bed up about 20 degrees; this lessened secretions collecting in the throat; do not sit up so high that they are continually sliding down in bed.
6. LN may need to suction if increased secretions develop. Let LN know of any specific needs.
7. Excellent and frequent oral care-may need suction machine to safely complete this task. Keep mouth moist with swabs or spray. Keep lips moist with lip moisturizer.
8. Turn at least every 2 hours, or more often if skin reddens or they appear more restless. With each turn, smooth hair and linens.
9. Keep towel under chin if drooling; change as needed to keep clean.
10. Notify LN of any change in condition; or need for pain medication or increased anxiety by patient.
11. LN to keep family informed of medical changes.
12. If alert enough, may have choice of food or fluids.
13. Ask kitchen to provide "comfort cart".
14. Let LN know if 2 days without bowel movement.
15. Social Services (SS) and/or Activity staff may assist in arranging clergy support.
16. SS and/or Activity staff may provide 1:1 visits as needed.
17. Activity Staff may provide appropriate music and CD player as needed.

18. SS may provide supportive counseling and family intervention as needed.

## Related Policies & Forms:

### Attachments

No Attachments

### Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Medical Director Approval	Andrew Park: Provider	10/2020
CEO Mat Approval	Mat Slaybaugh: PT Manager	10/2020
DNS Approval	Jayd Keener: DNS	10/2020
Department Manager Approval	Jayd Keener: DNS	10/2020