



## Medical Aid in Dying

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### Approvals

- Signature: Renee Jensen, Chief Executive Officer signed on 10/22/2024, 2:58:06 PM
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### Revision Insight

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**Policy : Medical Aid in Dying**

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**Summary/Intent**

To recognize the Washington State "Death with Dignity Act," herein referred to as the "Act" (RCW 70.245/WAC 246-978)

**Definitions**

"Act" (RCW 70.245/WAC 246-978)

**Affected Departments/Services**

All Departments

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**Policy: Compliance - Key Elements**

SVH will allow its health care providers to participate in the process set forth in the Act if they so choose and respects the right of any health care provider to decline to participate in activities specific to the Act, subject to the provisions of this and any other applicable hospital policies. SVH will comply with [House Bill 1608 – Providing Information to Patients](#) by providing a copy of the information regarding this law at the time of hire, contracting, privileging and yearly thereafter to health care providers and staff.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

SVH will provide public notice of this policy in the following ways: posting the policy or information about the hospital's stance on the Death with Dignity Act on the hospital's web page; including in hospital materials regarding advanced directives.

SVH will comply with [The Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 \(P.L. 105-12\)](#) which prohibits the use of Federal funds to provide or pay for any health care item or service, or health benefit coverage, for the purpose of causing, or assisting to cause, the death of any individual including mercy killing, euthanasia, or assisted suicide.

**PROCEDURE:**

Qualified health care providers (defined as a person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by law to administer health care or dispense medication in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession, and includes a healthcare facility) who are willing to participate, are employed and properly credentialed by SVH may, as otherwise allowed:

- Perform the duties of an attending provider;
- Perform the duties of a consulting provider;
- Prescribe a life-ending dose of medication;
- Provide counseling in connection with the provision of a life-ending dose of medication; and/or
- Perform other duties as provided for in the Act.

Health Care providers who decline to participate may:

- Refer the patient to other resources that can provide such support
- If any SVH provider participates in the "Washington State Death with Dignity Act" with a patient of this hospital, that provider must immediately notify the Chief Medical Officer. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure the correct procedures are followed and the correct documentation is completed in accordance with the Act and hospital policy.
- Hospital administration may provide oversight and may review records to the extent necessary to ensure all the safeguards of the law have been followed and the required documentation completed and submitted to the Department of Health.

**DISPENSING AND INGESTING OF A LETHAL DOSE OF MEDICATION:** The SVH position is that its acute care hospital and its clinics are not the appropriate setting for patients who are at the stage of taking life-ending medications.

In accordance with this policy, the final actions ending a patient's life, under the specifications of this Death with Dignity Act, shall not occur on or within the premises of the hospital or in clinics operated by the District. The patient's self-administration of the lethal medication is not permitted on the District's premises. Also, the medication for this purpose will not be dispensed from the hospital pharmacy.

**PROCEDURE:** Please check for the current forms and standards at [Forms for Patients and Providers | Washington State Department of Health \(7/23/2023\)](#) and the SVH Death with Dignity Act Procedure.

**Laws/Regulations:**

Initiative 1000/ Washington Death with Dignity Act: [Death with Dignity Act | Washington State Department of Health](#) [Death with Dignity Act | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

[Frequently Asked Questions About Death With Dignity | Washington State Department of Health](#)

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<b>Attachments:</b> <b>(REFERENCED BY THIS DOCUMENT)</b>	Death with Dignity Act   Washington State Department of Health Forms for Patients and Providers   Washington State Department of Health (7/23/2023) Frequently Asked Questions About Death With Dignity   Washington State Department of Health House Bill 1608 &ndash; Providing Information to Patients The Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-12)		

**Other Documents:**  
**(WHICH REFERENCE THIS DOCUMENT)**

Paper copies of this document may not be current and should not be relied on for official purposes. The current version is in Lucidoc at

[https://www.lucidoc.com/cgi/doc-gw.pl?ref=snovh:12096\\$1](https://www.lucidoc.com/cgi/doc-gw.pl?ref=snovh:12096$1).