



TERMINAL OR END OF LIFE CARE

PURPOSE

Mason Health shall assist those patients who are facing end of life conditions to proceed through the death process with comfort, dignity and respect. As death is viewed as the final act of living, all efforts will be set forth by the organization to identify, address and positively respond to the patient's and families needs, related to all primary and secondary diagnosis and symptoms, and as they relate to psychological, social, emotional and spiritual issues.

POLICY

- Withdrawal of life support does not prevent provision of optimal care (see Withdrawal or Withholding Life Support and Resolution of Conflict of Care Issues policy).
- Patients have the right to accept or refuse all treatments (see Patient Rights-Management policy).
- Advance Directives and/or POLST will be honored at all times.
 - Do Not Resuscitate does not mean no care.
- Utilize a holistic approach to ensure interventions for any symptoms are provided or withheld according to the wishes of the patient or the surrogate decision maker.
- All patients at the end of life will receive Comfort Care based on symptom management and with a goal of easing suffering. Comfort care may include:
 - Managing pain aggressively and effectively.
 - Providing sedation if appropriate to patient's condition
 - Providing nutrition, fluids, if possible.
 - ADL assistance, including frequent oral care and bathing.
 - Frequent turning, repositioning
- Respect patient's values, religion, culture, and philosophy by involving the patient/family when appropriate in every aspect of care and decision making,



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responding to the psychological, social, emotional, spiritual, and cultural concerns of the patient and the family.

- Notify Case Management.
- Assess whether patient and/or family would like Pastoral or Spiritual care.
- Any requests that are out of normal policy guidelines, please discuss with the department manager or house supervisor. For example: Pet visitation, etc.
- Consider NODA (No one dies alone) program.
- Allow and support patient/family grief practices as much as is safe.
 - Bereavement packets are available for family and friends. Treatment and care are fully explained to the patient and family and documented.
- The hospital will facilitate and demonstrate respect for the following patient needs:
 - Confidentiality
 - Privacy
 - Security
 - Resolution of complaints
 - Pastoral, counseling
 - Communication
- Ethics committee members are available for ethical dilemmas. See Ethics: How to call a case review policy.
- Mason Health respects a patient right to participate in the Death with Dignity Act. See related policy- Death with Dignity
- Encourage and facilitate Care Conferences when appropriate. See Multidisciplinary Patient Care Conference Policy
- Angel trays (snacks, coffee, tea) available to order for family/friends if patient is at end of life.
- See Organ and Tissue Donation policy.

Alternate Search Words: death, dying, terminal, comfort care, no code, comfort measures

Referenced Documents

Multidisciplinary Patient Care Planning.

Withdrawal or Withholding Life Support and Resolution of Conflict of Care Decisions.



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Organ Donation