

POLICY

Death with Dignity Act Participation

Category: Organizational

Sub-Category: Rights & Responsibilities

Other: Click here to enter text.

Type: POLICY

Status: Active

Last Reviewed: 07/03/2020

Regulatory Source(s): OTHER

Other: WA State and WSHA

Regulatory Citation Number(s): RCW 70.245 and WAC 246-978

Citation title: The Washington Death with Dignity Act

Foundational Mirrored Policy: Yes

PURPOSE:

This policy outlines Virginia Mason's participation in the Washington Death with Dignity Act as outlined in state law.

SCOPE: Workforce

POLICY:

Guiding Principles:

- Virginia Mason offers and recommends all medically appropriate treatments to patients regardless of their participation in the Death with Dignity Act.
- Virginia Mason supports all health care providers' individual choice to participate or to refrain from the process allowed by the Death with Dignity Act.

Participation:

- Virginia Mason will not allow patients to self-administer the medication(s) while in the acute inpatient or outpatient clinic setting.
- Virginia Mason will not prescribe the lethal medication at a Virginia Mason pharmacy or in the acute inpatient setting.
- Bailey Boushay House will allow patients to self-administer in the long term care setting.
- Bailey Boushay House will prescribe and dispense through the facility pharmacy.
- Virginia Mason health care providers may choose to participate in the process by fulfilling one or more of the following roles as outlined by in the Act:
 - Provide counseling
 - Perform the duties of an attending physician
 - Perform the duties of a consulting physician
 - Prescribe the lethal medication(s) (outpatients only)

Reporting:

Per Washington State Law and Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA)

DEFINITIONS:

Refer to **Medical Center Policy Development & Approval - Appendix A for standard workforce, roles and work product definitions.**

POLICY

REFERENCES:

Policies:

Notice of Privacy Practices
Informed Consent

Tools:

Patient Rights and Responsibility Handout
Washington State Department of Health website: www.doh.wa.gov/dwda

KEYWORD Indexes: End of life, palliative care, medically assisted suicide, euthanasia, assisted death

Effective Date:	September 30, 2020	Term Date:	
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Approved By:		Date:	
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