
Policy : Death with Dignity Act

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

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

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Department	Human Resources	Department Manager	Mincy, Julie
Document Owner	Mincy, Julie	Next Review Date	02/12/2026
Original Effective Date	02/13/2024		
Revised	[02/13/2024 Rev. 0]		

Attachments:
(REFERENCED BY THIS DOCUMENT)

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 – 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\\$0](https://www.lucidoc.com/cgi/doc-gw.pl?ref=snovh:12096$0).

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: **King County Public Hospital District No. 4 dba Snoqualmie Valley Health**

Physical address: **9801 Frontier Avenue SE**

City: **Snoqualmie**

State: **WA**

ZIP Code: **98065**

Hospital contact: **Renee Jensen, CEO**

Contact phone #: **425-831-2300**

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Provides hospice care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provides palliative care <input type="checkbox"/> Provides spiritual care <input 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.

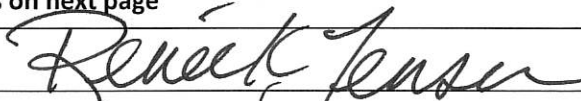
Allows providers to participate in the Death with Dignity Act at the hospital*

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:

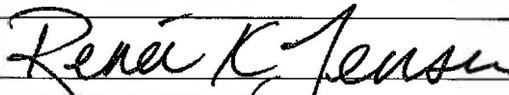


Signed by: **Renée Jensen, CEO**

Date: **02/22/2024**

Comments; limitations on services; other services:

Signature:



Signed by: **Renee Jensen, CEO**

Date: **02/22/2024**

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