



- Systemwide Standard Policy
 Systemwide Model Policy

Standard Policy No. 10634
 Approval Pathway: Clinical
 Department: Clinical Risk

STANDARD POLICY: PHYSICIAN AID-IN-DYING: END OF LIFE OPTION/DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT(S)

POLICY SUMMARY/INTENT:

Adventist Health is a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system whose mission is to “share God’s love” by compassionately attending to the physical, mental, and spiritual needs at every stage of life, including the end of life. Adventist Health has clinical operations and facilities in states that have passed laws (referenced below) allowing for physician-assisted end of life options (“Death with Dignity Laws”). These Death with Dignity Laws allow terminal patients to choose to end their life, as long as certain requirements are met.

While Adventist Health recognizes the rights of terminally ill patients and physicians who may choose to participate in their respective state’s Death with Dignity Laws, it chooses not to participate in these procedures. Adventist Health bases its policy on the following principles:

A respect for all human life.

A respect for the special trust-based relationship that exists between a patient and that patient’s physician in making important healthcare decisions.

A respect for another person’s right to have informed consent and to choose what is perceived to be best for that person—regardless of the personal beliefs of a provider.

A desire to treat others, as we would want to be treated.

An acknowledgement that Death with Dignity Laws do not require any person or entity to participate against the will of that person or entity.

Acknowledgment that Federal and/or state laws, including reporting requirements, will be followed.

AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS/SERVICES:

1. All inpatient clinical areas where care is delivered to terminally ill patients

POLICY: COMPLIANCE - KEY ELEMENTS:

Based on the principles above, Adventist Health adopts the following policy for all Adventist Health affiliates and their facilities:

- A. The primary goal of care for patients who are terminally ill is to alleviate that patient’s pain and suffering as effectively as possible and to affirm that patient’s life. This requires thoughtful consideration of the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of patients.
- B. If a terminally ill patient requests assistance under a Death with Dignity Law, every reasonable measure that might help to alleviate the underlying causes for the request shall be explored. All conversations concerning end of life decisions need to be well documented in the patient’s medical record. Patients should also be given written (or other) educational materials that inform them of the law(s) and options available.
- C. If a terminally ill patient admitted to Adventist Health continues to request assistance under the End of Life Option or Death with Dignity Act(s), a referral will be facilitated, as applicable.

ATTACHMENTS:
(REFERENCED BY THIS DOCUMENT)

OTHER DOCUMENTS: **Consent and Informed Consent - Oregon**
(WHICH REFERENCE THIS DOCUMENT) **Consent and Informed Consent - Hawaii**

FEDERAL REGULATIONS:

ACCREDITATION:

CALIFORNIA: **Sb-128 End of Life Option Act**

HAWAII: **No specific state requirements noted, corporate policy applies as written**

OREGON: **ORS Chapter 127: Death with Dignity Act**

WASHINGTON: **Death with Dignity Act/Initiative 1000; Chapter 70.245 RCW and WAC 246-978**

REFERENCES:

ADVENTIST HEALTH **System Chief Quality Officer**

SYSTEM/WEST POLICY OWNER:

ENTITY POLICY OWNER: **Not applicable**

APPROVED_BY:

ADVENTIST HEALTH **(02/18/2020) Clinical Cabinet (CC), (03/10/2020) System Bioethics Committee**

SYSTEM/WEST:

ADVENTIST HEALTH
SYSTEM/WEST INDIVIDUAL:

ENTITY: **Not applicable**

ENTITY INDIVIDUAL: **Not applicable**

REVIEW DATE: **05/16/2019**

REVISION DATE: **05/24/2016, 04/08/2020**

APPROVAL PATHWAY: **Clinical**

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