



Title:	Death with Dignity Act	Effective Date:	07/01/2009
Categories:	Board of Commissioners	Approved Date:	03/01/2021
Prepared By:	Pat Songer (Chief Operations Officer)		
Reviewed By:	Diane Blake (Chief Executive Officer), Board Quality Oversight Committee		
Approved By:	Diane Blake (Chief Executive Officer), Board of Commissioners		

PURPOSE:

To establish Cascade Medical Board of Commissioners’ Governing Policy regarding the Washington State Death with Dignity Act.

POLICY:

- A. Cascade Medical is committed to a mission of providing high quality primary care services to meet the healthcare needs of persons who seek our care. These needs include a range of services for patients approaching the end of their lives. Cascade Medical has long provided pain management, palliative care and comfort care for these patients whether in its facilities or at the patient’s home. Patients qualified under the provisions of Title 70.245 of the Revised Code of Washington are now afforded the opportunity to seek life ending medications. This Governing Policy specifies Cascade Medical’s position regarding the Death with Dignity Act:
- 1) Qualified Patients, as defined in Washington’s Death with Dignity Act (“Act”) (also known as “Initiative 1000” and “I-1000”) may not ingest Life Ending Medications at Cascade Medical facilities.
 - 2) The Cascade Medical pharmacy will not fill prescriptions for life ending medications described in the Act.
 - 3) Members of the Medical Staff of Cascade Medical may counsel their patients with regard to the Act and may serve in the role of Attending Physician and/or Consulting Physician in accordance with the Act, provided they do not deliver or facilitate delivery or ingestion of life ending medications within any Cascade Medical facility.
 - 4) No employee of Cascade Medical will be required to participate in any activities directly related to the Act. Giving patients general information about their available options under Washington law is to be distinguished from activities directly related to the delivery, ingestion, or direct facilitation of life ending activities under the Act.
 - 5) Any physician employed by Cascade Medical who chooses to participate in activities under the Act, as limited in this Policy, will document all activities in the manner prescribed by the Act and its related regulations. A summary of such documentation requirements is to be available to all staff.
 - 6) Only established patients of a physician may be accepted as Qualified Patients under this policy. No referrals of outside patients may be accepted by a physician for services under the Act.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Executive Leadership of Cascade Medical will adopt Policies and Procedures pertaining to the Death with Dignity Act that are consistent with the Board of Commissioners’ expectations set forth in this Governing Policy.
- B. Communications consistent with the Board of Commissioners’ expectations as set forth in this policy will be shared with all Cascade Medical employees and contract or temporary personnel.



Title:	Death with Dignity Act	Effective Date:	07/01/2009
Categories:	Board of Commissioners	Approved Date:	03/01/2021
Prepared By:	Pat Songer (Chief Operations Officer)		
Reviewed By:	Diane Blake (Chief Executive Officer), Board Quality Oversight Committee		
Approved By:	Diane Blake (Chief Executive Officer), Board of Commissioners		

- C. The Board of Commissioners' Governing Policy shall also be posted on the Cascade Medical web site and such other locations as the Executive Leadership Team determines to be appropriate in accordance with the provisions of the Death with Dignity Act.

REFERENCES:

- A. RCW Title 70.245, Death with Dignity Act.
B. Washington Administrative Code, Section 246.978, Department of Health Rules Related to Death with Dignity Act.