

CHAPTER 21

Palliative Care and Treatment

I. POLICY

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) shall provide palliative care and treatment when the inmate-patient's terminal condition results in pain or disability to such an extent that the Primary Care Physician (PCP) and the inmate-patient determine that only palliation shall be provided.

II. PURPOSE

To provide comfort, relief from pain, and support when the inmate-patient has received a terminal diagnosis.

III. PROCEDURE

1. The PCP shall evaluate the inmate-patient and prescribe a treatment plan as warranted for palliative or comfort care. The ordered treatment shall be documented on a CDCR Form 7221, Physician's Order, and filed in the inmate-patient's Unit Health Record (UHR).
2. A pain control plan (including narcotics) will be developed with the assistance of a specialist, as appropriate.
3. If the inmate-patient meets the criteria for hospice care, the PCP shall complete a referral to CDCR's hospice at the California Medical Facility.
4. Hospice Admission Criteria are:
 - a. The hospice has obtained written acceptance for hospice care from the Chief Medical Officer or designee.
 - b. The hospice PCP and/or Chief Medical Officer or designee certifies a prognosis six (6) months or less if the disease follows its expected course.
 - c. The inmate-patient and/or designated legal representative agrees to palliative goals/philosophy of hospice services.
 - d. The custody level generally cannot be greater than a Close A and there cannot be any other precluding custody considerations (such as enemy situations).
 - e. The hospice has the ability to meet the needs of the inmate-patient, according to the level and intensity of care required.
 - f. There are adequate, cooperative efforts by the inmate-patient to follow safety measures and the plan for medical and non-medical emergencies.
 - g. The hospice has adequate, suitable personnel and resources to provide the services required by the inmate-patient.
5. Inmate-patients receiving palliative care shall continue to receive medically necessary treatment for other medical conditions that may occur or coexist, such as injuries, infections, and chronic conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes).
6. Refusal of medically necessary care shall be documented on a CDCR Form 7225, Refusal of Examination and/or Treatment, and shall be filed in the inmate-patient's UHR.
7. Health Care Services staff shall inform inmate-patients that they may obtain a consultation with the Mental Health Services Department or Chaplain of their choice within the institution. Upon the inmate-patient's request, an appointment shall be made with the requested discipline.
8. The Health Care Manager shall request a "Compassionate Release" when appropriate.

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9. Health care staff shall follow the Department's procedure for "Advance Directives."