

# Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)

176392



## Purpose

To provide a consistent approach for discussing and managing Medical Aid in Dying (MAID).

Hospice of the Northwest supports our patients' wishes regarding end-of-life. We honor the rights of eligible Washington State residents to access MAID through the Washington State Death with Dignity Act. No patient will be denied hospice care because of their interest in pursuing MAID.

Hospice of the Northwest staff has expertise in end-of-life choices and decision making, including help for patients seeking information about MAID. We will provide ongoing personalized, high-quality, and holistic end-of-life care to all patients with the goal of symptom management, comfort, and dignity through end of life.

## Policy

1. Hospice of the Northwest (HNW) staff will seek to uncover sources of strength and alleviate sources of suffering for all patients and their circle of support, independent of specific end-of-life choices.
2. HNW recognizes that Washington State residents have the legal right to use MAID as outlined in the Washington State Death with Dignity Act (DWDA; Chapter 70.245 RCW). No patient shall be denied care based on their interest in MAID.
3. There is no restriction on any knowledgeable staff member in offering information on MAID. Staff will remain respectful and nonjudgmental in the discussion of MAID with patients.
4. There is no requirement for staff members to be involved in the counseling or management of MAID. If a staff member does not wish to participate, support from another staff member will be arranged.
5. HNW will not, either directly or through the Hospice of the Northwest Foundation, provide funds for purchasing medications used for MAID.
6. As the DWDA dictates, HNW staff will not administer medications used for MAID. HNW staff and volunteers, after completing designated training, may participate in preparation of medications, with the intent of relieving burden for patients and their circle of support. HNW nurses may administer other medications as needed for comfort either before or after ingestion of MAID medications.
7. HNW staff may be present during the ingestion of MAID medications at the request of patients or their circle of support. There is no requirement for staff to attend. If a staff member prefers not to attend, they will notify their supervisor who will attempt to arrange support from another staff member at the patient's request.
8. HNW medical providers may participate in MAID by acting in the Consulting Provider or Attending Provider roles as outlined in the Washington State DWDA.
9. For specific questions about services available at HNW, call 360-814-5550.