

**Skagit Regional Health**

Policy/Procedure

Washington Death with Dignity Act

Compliance

32572

(Rev: 2) **Official**

Purpose

To provide guidance to Skagit Regional Health (SRH) providers, staff, patients, families and the community it serves regarding Skagit Regional Health's participation in the "Washington State Death with Dignity Act" (Act).

Policy

With certain limitations, Skagit Regional Health allows its providers to participate in the "Washington State Death with Dignity Act" if they so choose. SRH does not mandate that any provider participate in the "Washington State Death with Dignity Act", nor does it encourage any provider to do so. Only those providers who are willing and desire to participate should do so. SRH believes providers have an obligation to respond to and openly discuss any patient's query about life-ending medication and assist patients in making informed decisions about end-of-life care.

Skagit Regional Health providers may choose to:

1. Request a consult or make a referral to the Skagit Regional Health Palliative Care Team;
2. Make a referral to Hospice care through Skagit Regional Health's affiliation with Hospice of the Northwest;
3. Prescribe life-ending medication;
4. Provide counseling in connection with the provision of life-ending medication; and/or
5. Perform other duties as provided for in the Act.

Limitations on Participation

1. Skagit Regional Health pharmacy staff shall not fill a prescription for life-ending medication.
2. Patient shall not self administer life-ending medications at Skagit Regional Health.

Sanctions

If a provider participates in the Act beyond what is allowed in this policy, a referral will be made to the Medical Staff Services Office for investigation and review which will follow due process procedures provided for in the Medical Staff Bylaws.