

## **PURPOSE**

To clearly define the agency roles and responsibilities regarding the CA End-of-Life Option Act. The agency has chosen to participate in the End-of-Life Option Act.

## **POLICY**

All agency personnel shall be aware of the California End-of-Life Option Act. Effective June 9, 2016, a qualified adult is allowed to request a prescription for self –administration of lethal medication to end his or her life. Agency services will continue regardless of the agency' choice to participate or not participate. The agency shall provide notice of participation or non-participation to the general public, clients, employees, independent contractors, and volunteers. Employees maintain the right of non-participation regardless of the agency's level of participation.

## **PROCEDURE**

1. The patient must be eligible to participate in the End-of-Life option as defined by the state of California in the End-of-Life Option Act [443-443.22].  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=1.&title=&part=1.85.&chapter=&article=](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=1.&title=&part=1.85.&chapter=&article=)
2. The patient must have an attending physician over seeing their hospice care. This attending physician must prescribe the End-of-Life medication. The hospice medical director shall never prescribe the End-of-Life medication.
3. The patient must have a valid DNR on file with the American River Hospice Services at least 1 day prior to receiving the End-of-Life Option medication in their possession.
4. All of the following shall be documented in the patient's medical records:
  - A. All request for aid-in-dying drugs (2 verbal and 1 written request).
  - B. The attending physician's diagnosis and prognosis, and verification that the qualified individual has the capacity to make medical decisions, is acting voluntarily, and has made an informed decision, or that the attending physician has determined the individual is not a qualified individual.
  - C. The consulting physician's diagnosis and prognosis, and verification that the qualified individual has the capacity to make medical decisions, is acting voluntarily, and has made an informed decision, or that the attending physician has determined the individual is not a qualified individual.
  - D. A report of the outcome and determinations made during the mental health specialist's assessment, if performed.

## **American River Hospice Services**

---

- E. The attending physician's offer to the qualified individual to withdraw or rescind his or her request at the time of the individual's second oral request.
  - F. A note by the attending physician indicating that all requirements under Sections 443.5 and 443.6 have been met and indicating the steps taken to carry out the request, including a notation of the aid-in-dying drug(s) prescribed.
5. The hospice staff will be present to provide comfort and support to the patient and family prior to, during and after the End-of-Life Option medication have been self-ingested by the patient. Hospice staff will not participate in any way with administration of these medications.
  6. Any American River Hospice Services employee may request to not provide care to a patient receiving aid-in-dying care if they have any objections based on personal conscience, morals or ethics. The Clinical Manager will assign the patient to other clinician(s) that are willing to provide care to patients requesting the California End-Of-Life Option.
  7. Hospice staff, caregivers and all other persons are prohibited from helping the patient ingest the medication.
  8. Once the patient passes, he or she must be pronounced by the attending physician and that physician will be the physician of record on the death certification.
  9. All documentation for the End-of-Life Option must be present in the patient's chart prior to the patient ingesting the medication as prescribed by the attending physician.
  10. End-Of-Life Option information will be available upon request for any patients or families seeking this information.
  11. A copy of American River Hospice Service's policy on the End-Of-Life Option will be posted on the agency website.