

Comfort Care/ Palliative Care (Non-Hospice)

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| Definition | Comfort/Palliative Care is any form of medical care or treatment that concentrates on reducing the severity of disease symptoms, rather than halting or delaying progression of the disease itself or providing a cure. Non-hospice palliative care is not dependent on prognosis and is offered in conjunction with curative and all other appropriate forms of medical treatment. It should not be confused with hospice care which delivers palliative care to those at the end of life and is administered by an outside service at the facility. |
| Policy Statement | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This facility will provide care clinically indicated by Resident's Diagnosis2. This facility will not provide Comfort/Palliative Care3. Resident has a right to refuse any care/treatment prescribed by resident's physician.4. Resident's refusal of any treatment shall be properly documented in resident's chart. Resident's physician and/or family shall be notified of resident's refusal of treatment.5. Nurse shall document response from resident's physician in resident's chart |
| Attending Physician Responsibilities | Resident's physician shall explain to the Resident and/or family possible consequences of refusal of treatment. |
| Documentation | The following should be documented: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Refusal of any treatment, including food and hydration, shall be documented in Resident's chart.2. Any calls to and from physician will be documented in the nurses notes, or on the 'Physician Notification Form' indicating information conveyed or received.3. All orders taken from the physician or his/her office nurse, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner.4. The nurse receiving telephone verbal orders write it on the 24 Hour report.5. The nurse should indicate in the nurse's notes ongoing conversations with the physician regarding response to notification(s) of refusals of treatment. |