



VOLUME 4: MEDICAL SERVICES	Effective Date: 01/2006
CHAPTER 21	Revision Date: 09/2015
4.21.2 PALLIATIVE CARE AND TREATMENT PROCEDURE	Attachments: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. PROCEDURE OVERVIEW

This procedure provides requirements for providing palliative care and treatment when the patient has received a terminal diagnosis.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. The Primary Care Provider (PCP) shall evaluate the patient and prescribe a treatment plan as warranted for palliative or comfort care. The ordered treatment shall be documented in the patient's health record.
- B. A pain control plan (including narcotics) will be developed with the assistance of a specialist, as appropriate.
- C. If the patient meets the criteria for hospice care, the PCP shall complete a referral to CDCR's hospice at the California Medical Facility.
- D. Hospice Admission Criteria are as follows:
 - 1. The hospice has obtained written acceptance for hospice care from the Chief Medical Executive (CME) or designee.
 - 2. The hospice PCP and/or CME or designee certifies a prognosis six (6) months or less if the disease follows its expected course.
 - 3. The patient and/or designated legal representative agrees to palliative goals/philosophy of hospice services.
 - 4. The custody level generally cannot be greater than a Close A and there cannot be any other precluding custody considerations (such as enemy situations).
 - 5. The hospice has the ability to meet the needs of the patient, according to the level and intensity of care required.
 - 6. There are adequate, cooperative efforts by the patient to follow safety measures and the plan for medical and non-medical emergencies.
 - 7. The hospice has adequate, suitable personnel and resources to provide the services required by the patient.
- E. 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).
- F. Refusal of medically necessary care shall be documented in the patient's health record.
- G. Health care staff shall inform patients that they may obtain a consultation with the Mental Health Services Department or Chaplain of their choice within the institution. Upon the patient's request, an appointment shall be made with the requested discipline.
- H. The Chief Executive Officer shall request a "Compassionate Release" when appropriate.
- I. Health care staff shall follow the Department's procedure for "Advance Directives."

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

III. REFERENCES

- California Correctional Health Care Services, Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures, Volume 1, Chapter 17, Advance Directive for Health Care
- California Correctional Health Care Services, Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures, Volume 4, Chapter 29, Medical Classification System