Department & Location | Policy       | Number
----------------------|-------------|--------
Patient Care Delivery  | End of Life Care | HS-415.11
Central Hospital       |             | Page 1 of 2

ADOPTED: 03/14

REVISION/REVIEW DATE: DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANTIVE REVISION:
NEW New

POLICY:

End of Life Care:
Group Health Central Hospital does not provide inpatient acute care services other than maternity and newborn care. As a result, we do not care for patients who are near end of life at Central Hospital. Any patient in end of life stage would be transferred to another hospital or to hospice care.

Advance Directives:
Any Group Health Cooperative enrollee or patient age eighteen years or older and who has the capacity to make health care decisions has the right to execute advance directives concerning health care services.

An enrollee or a patient who has executed an advance directive may revoke or change the directive at any time as provided by law.

Advance directives and any revocations or changes shall be documented in a prominent place in the Group Health medical record.

Group Health shall comply with all state and federal laws applicable to advance directives.

Group Health materials addressing advance directives shall conform to applicable federal and state laws. Any changes in such laws shall be reflected in the written materials within 90 days of the effective date of such laws.

Group Health seeks to give effect to all legally valid advance directives to the extent consistent with law. If Group Health determines that it is unable to honor a valid advance directive, Group Health will attempt to notify the patient with a clear, precise written statement of its inability to give effect to such directive. The patient will have the option to seek care from non-Group Health providers, consistent with the terms of any applicable coverage agreement.

Group Health does not condition the provision of care or discriminate against an individual based on whether or not the individual has executed any advance directives.

Group Health provides adult enrollees and patients or their legally authorized representatives with written information about Group Health’s policies and legal requirements and individuals’ rights under federal and state laws related to advance directives, the right to make decisions

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concerning health care services, including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, and Group Health's policies about those rights.

Group Health participates in and sponsors educational programs for its workforce members, enrollees/patients, and the community on issues concerning healthcare decision-making and advance directives.

No Group Health workforce member is permitted to serve as witness to a Group Health enrollee's or patient's advance directive.

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