Medical Aid-in-Dying Steps

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STEP 1: Verbal Request

Patient makes verbal request for medical aid in dying to attending provider

STEP 2: Attending Healthcare Provider

Attending healthcare provider documents verbal request and evaluates patient

- Determine whether patient is a terminally ill adult with a 6-month prognosis
- Assesses mental capacity

If Capable

- Review all feasible alternatives including disease treatment, palliative care, hospice and pain control
- Refer patient for hospice evaluation if appropriate
- Discuss potential risks and expected outcome from ingesting medical aid-in-dying medication
- Confirm patient is acting on their own and free from coercion or undue influence
- Obtain written consent — standard form signed and dated by patient and entered into medical record
- Inform patient of their right to rescind the request or change their mind at any time
- Refer to consulting healthcare provider

If Capacity uncertain, refer to mental health professional for assessment **STEP 3a**

If Not Capable, inform patient and family that the patient does not qualify and offer alternative options for comfort care

STEP 3a: Mental Health Professional (optional)

- Assess patient's capacity to request medical aid in dying
- Evaluate mental health factors that could influence capacity
- Confirm or deny patient's qualification status and report that finding to the referring and attending healthcare provider

IF patient does not qualify, document and refer back to attending healthcare provider with recommendations for alternative care

STEP 3: Consulting Healthcare Provider

- Document the patient's oral request for medical aid in dying
- Review patient's medical records
- Evaluate patient for prognosis and capacity
- Confirm patient is free from coercion
- Provide the opportunity to rescind the request

IF mental capacity confirmed, go to **STEP 4**

IF mental capacity not confirmed, refer to mental health professional for assessment (**STEP 3a**)

IF capacity confirmed, go to **STEP 4**

STEP 4: Attending Healthcare Professional

- Confirm that the consulting provider agrees that the patient qualifies for medical aid in dying and is documented in the medical record
- Inform patient of the benefits of notifying next of kin
- Offer the patient the opportunity to rescind the request
- Confirm that the patient is free from coercion
- Counsel the patient on
  - Use of the prescribed medications
  - Recommended procedure for self-administering the medications
  - Safe-keeping and proper storage of unused medications
  - The importance of having another person present at the time of ingestion
  - Not ingesting the medication in a public place
- Provide the prescription in writing, by mail or through electronic means to a licensed, participating pharmacy

After ingestion: Sign the death certificate indicating the underlying disease as the cause of death and submit documentation to the MN Department of Health within 30 days

Within 30 days: Submit Attending Provider Checklist form to the MN Department of Health

Within 60 days: submit Attending Provider Follow Up form to the MN Department of Health

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