

# **Skilled Nursing Facility Comfort Care Program**

## Policy Statement

Our facility, in an effort to provide respectful and compassionate care to our residents, has adopted the following Comfort Care Program. This program will provide support to the resident and their family, with special focus on relief of pain and distressing symptoms. Resident and family support, with consideration of their social and cultural needs, shall be emphasized.

## Policy Interpretation and Implementation

Chronically ill residents in a state of declining health shall be considered for inclusion in the Comfort Care Program. Transition to Comfort Care shall be contingent upon the agreement of the resident or their surrogate decisionmaker, the resident's attending physician and the Intra-disciplinary Team (IDT).

The Comfort Care Program will emphasize quality of life and comfort issues. Care Plans shall be revised after consideration of disease progression, and evaluation of the efficacy and burden of treatment options. Discontinuation of current treatments may result, if they are determined to be more burdensome than beneficial. Any new treatment added to the resident's care plan should be with the primary purpose of improving comfort. The Care Plan will include the unique needs of the resident and family. Physician orders will be revised to reflect the focus of comfort care and the individual needs identified in the care plan.

Residents in the Comfort Care Program will be re-evaluated for current medical status, quality of life, and pain and symptom management needs as their condition changes and at least quarterly.