



Central Coast

Home Health and Hospice

Addendum 2-058 - A

Central Coast Home Health and Hospice
Position Statement and Discussion Points

Central Coast Home Health and Hospice Position Statement and Discussion Points

CA SB-128 End of Life Option Act

Position Statement:

Our mission at Central Coast Home Health and Hospice:

- We uphold the fundamental hospice philosophy that hospice care values life, and neither hastens nor prolongs the dying process.
- Our focus is patient-centric and we believe people have the right to access excellent pain and symptom management, and the right to self-determination to refuse unwanted medical intervention and allow death to occur naturally
- With the implementation of California's SB-128 End of Life Option Act, Central Coast Home Health and Hospice will comply with the law as an organization that will educate and support its patients as they explore all end of life care options, which also include home health care, palliative care, and hospice care.
 - We will make known our position to educate and support patients.
 - We will continue to provide physical, emotional, and spiritual care for the patient, family, and caregivers throughout the dying process, but we will not actively participate in ordering, obtaining, preparing, or administering the aid in dying drugs used pursuant to CA SB-128 End of Life Option Act.
 - We will facilitate the education and referral process for the patient and work cooperatively with the patient's Attending Physician. Central Coast Hospice medical directors may not function as attending or consulting physician in assisting patient with End of Life Option Act decision making or process.
 - We respect and support the rights of our patients to make decisions about their own care and to choose from all legal options available.
 - We respect and support the rights of our caregivers, clinicians, and physicians to choose whether or not to counsel patients regarding the CA SB-128 End of Life Option Act or participation in any activity related to the Act.
 - We remain dedicated to providing excellent symptom management and support for our patients facing serious illnesses and patients with terminal illnesses.

Qualifications for CA SB-128 End of Life Option Act:

- Patient must be certified as terminally ill and predicted to die in 6 months or less. Must be deemed mentally competent by two different physicians (attending and consulting).
- 18 years of age or older.
- California resident and able to establish residency through any of the following means:
 - Possession of a California driver license or other identification issued by the State of California
 - Registration to vote in California

- Evidence that the person owns or leases property in California
 - Filing of a California tax return for the most recent tax year
- In the opinion of the attending or consulting physician, psychiatrist or psychologist, the patient is determined to have decision making capacity:
 - The individual has the ability to understand the nature and consequences of a health care decision.
 - The ability to understand its significant benefits, risks, and alternatives.
 - The ability to make and communicate an informed decision to health care providers, including communication through a person familiar with the individual's manner of communicating, if that person is available.
- Physically and mentally able to self-administer the medication.
- Requests must be made solely by the patient, not "on behalf of."
- Educated by attending and consulting physician on effects of medication ingestion, disease process, and feasible alternatives such as palliative care, hospice, or symptom management.
- Patient must take two verbal requests, a minimum of 48 hours apart, and one written request directly, and not through a designee, to their attending physician. The attending physician can provide the patient with the form "Request for an Aid-In-Dying Drug to end my life in a Humane and Dignified Manner."
- The attending physician shall directly, and not through a designee, receive all three requests.
- Written request must be signed by two adult witnesses:
 - Witness may not be an involved physician or mental health specialist
 - Only one witness can be related by blood, partnership, adoption, etc.

Discussion Points:

- Our mission at Central Coast Home Health and Hospice is to provide compassionate and trusted care for all.
- We uphold the fundamental hospice philosophy that hospice care values life, and neither hastens nor prolongs the dying process.
- Our focus is patient-centric and we believe people have a right to access excellent pain and symptom management, and the right to self-determination to refuse unwanted medical intervention and allow death to occur naturally.
- With the implementation of California's SB-128 End of Life Option Act, Central Coast Home Health and Hospice will comply with the law as an organization that will educate and support its patients and work cooperatively with the patient's attending physician as they explore all end of life care options, which also include home health care, palliative care, and hospice care.
- We recognize that in a patient's decision to exercise the end of life option their decision is not considered assisted suicide. Per CA SB-128, "death resulting from the self-

administration of an aid-in-dying drug is not suicide, and therefore health and insurance coverage shall not be exempted on that basis.”

Resources for More Information:

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

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