

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Operations Division
Health Services Section Policy and Procedure # P-G-11.1

SUBJECT: INMATE HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

POLICY: ODOC provides a palliative/hospice program. Select inmates will be trained and provide supportive care for inmates receiving hospice care.

REFERENCE: HS P&P #P-G-11 Care for the Terminally Ill/Hospice

PROCEDURE:

A. Selection Procedure

1. Each facility with a hospice program will recruit for inmates interested in participating in the hospice program as trained volunteers. The number of volunteers will be at the discretion of the IDT (inter-disciplinary team) at that facility. Inmates interested in being a hospice volunteer must meet the following requirements.
 - a. A minimum of 2 years remaining on sentence.
 - b. No serious disciplinary report during the past year.
 - c. No drug reports whether through disciplinary board or through the courts within the last five years.
 - d. Completion of Behavioral Health Services screening.
 - e. Any other criteria as established by the IDT.
2. The IDT will review all applicants for suitability. From this list, the IDT may elect to conduct interviews.
3. The health services representative to the IDT will assure that the inmates identified by the IDT for training have had a tetanus booster within ten years and are provided with the hepatitis B vaccine series.

B. Guidelines for Volunteer/Orderly Training

1. All new inmate volunteers will receive a minimum of 30 hours of training. The inmate volunteer may not participate in providing hospice care until this training has been satisfactorily completed.

Inmate Hospice Volunteers

2. The basic training modules consist of:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Concepts of Death and Dying
 - c. Interpersonal Communication
 - d. Communication with the Dying
 - e. Diseases and Conditions
 - f. Spiritual Dynamics of Death and Dying
 - g. Psychosocial Dynamics of Death and Dying
 - h. Grief Process
 - i. Choices in Living and Dying
 - j. Care and Comfort Measures
 - k. Institution Specific
3. Format and times of delivery of the material in the training modules is at the discretion of the Medical Services Manager. Content of the training modules may be modified for the specific facility in coordination with the facility IDT and the statewide Hospice Committee.
4. Ongoing education will be provided for all inmate hospice volunteers. This education will occur minimally on a quarterly basis and attendance is mandatory unless excused prior to the educational offering.

C. Assignment of Inmate Volunteers

1. The MSM or designee will work with the nurses assigned to oversee the tasks assigned to the inmate hospice volunteers.
2. Movement of inmate volunteers to and from the infirmary or housing will be arranged at each facility.
3. The MSM or designee will maintain open communication with the inmate hospice volunteers. It will be communicated to the inmate volunteer that he/she may decline without prejudice any assignment that he/she feels unable or unwilling to perform.
4. After each patient's death, the MSM or designee will organize resources to provide the hospice volunteers an opportunity to discuss their experiences and receive counseling by qualified staff. This death processing may begin immediately after the death with the inmate volunteer who was present when the death occurred.

D. Inmate Volunteer Responsibilities

1. Inmate volunteers will maintain confidentiality and will sign a Hospice Volunteer Agreement.

Inmate Hospice Volunteers

2. Inmate volunteers will submit an entry into each patient's hospice log each time they visit a hospice patient.
3. Inmate volunteers will work with the MSM or designee and the assigned nurses to provide care for hospice patients.
4. It is expected that the inmate volunteer will complete assignments to the best of his/her abilities. Failure to complete a task for a frivolous reason may result in discharge from service.
5. Inmate volunteers shall not question a patient's medical care nor interfere with medical care in any way.
6. Inmate volunteers shall not accept any gift or personal property from the inmate patient or family, nor shall they give gifts to the patient or family members.
7. An inmate volunteer will serve as a member of the IDT.

E. Termination of Service

1. An inmate volunteer may end their service at any time. Volunteers who leave the program voluntarily may reapply after a six-month respite.
2. The roles and actions of inmate volunteers are assessed by the IDT in the course of the team's on-going review of each patient's plan of care. The MSM or designee shall address problems and concerns that are identified by the IDT. An inmate volunteer's service with the program shall be terminated if, in the judgment of the IDT, it no longer serves the good of the patients, the good of the program, and/or the good of the volunteer.
3. Inmate volunteers who violate the rules of the program may be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate.

Effective Date: _____

Review date: October 2008

Supersedes P&P dated: August 2008