

Death with Dignity

General Treatment Guidelines

History

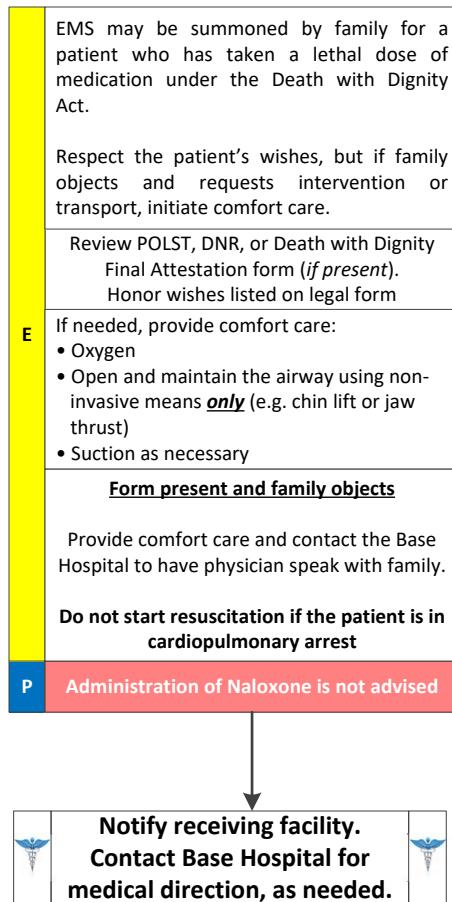
- Terminal illness
- Hospice care
- POLST or DNR
- Death with Dignity attestation

Signs and Symptoms

- AMS
- Congestion
- Change in breathing
- Change in pulse
- Fever

Differential

- Natural end of life
- Medication OD

**Pearls**

- Patients who have been deemed terminally ill by two independent physicians have the right under the California End of Life Act to end their life with dignity at a time that they choose themselves. EMS personnel should be aware of and familiar with this act. Refer to Policy 1003 for additional information.
- Naxolone will not have an affect on the drugs prescribed for death with dignity patients.
- It is important to recognize that families may be educated on what to expect with a dying family member, but no amount of preparation can eliminate the stress and grief of watching a loved one die.
- Contact the Base Hospital for direction or assistance with family if necessary.



Treatment Guideline G02