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Inmate Palliative Care Volunteer Training		ACA Standards: None	
Joel McCurdy, MD, Chief Medical Officer Oklahoma Department of Corrections		Signature on File	

Inmate Palliative Care Volunteer Training

Palliative care inmate volunteers will be assigned to assist inmates who are in need of support, companionship, or are no longer able to independently carry out activities of daily living. Inmate volunteers will be utilized in accordance with [OP-140103](#) entitled “Inmate Assistants.” Palliative care inmates may provide input into the selection process of the volunteers to assist them.

The function of the inmate palliative care volunteer is to provide companionship, assistance, and comfort to the dying patient. By providing such direct support, the volunteer will assist with the palliative care team staff in their efforts to maintain the psychological and spiritual wellbeing of the terminally ill patient. The volunteer will be trained in basic helping techniques as applied to terminally ill persons and will be supervised on an ongoing basis by staff professionals on the palliative care team. Volunteers are expected to provide assistance in areas where the patient’s normal capacities are restrict by the effects of their illness.

Inmate palliative care training will be accomplished utilizing ODOC health services staff, and the staff from accredited community hospice/palliative care entities. Basic palliative care concepts will be presented by community hospice staff. Hands on care training and education specific to ODOC will be provided by facility medical services staff.

I. Course Outline

- A. Topics to be presented to inmate volunteers by staff from an accredited community hospice/palliative care organization:
 - 1. The Palliative Care Movement and Concept
 - 2. Concepts of Death, Dying and Grief
 - 3. Communication Skills
 - 4. Care and Comfort Measures

5. Understanding Diseases and Conditions
 6. Psychosocial and Spiritual Dynamics of Death and Dying
 7. Managing Personal Stress
 8. Understanding the Bereavement Process
- B. Training Accomplished by ODOC Staff
1. Each inmate Palliative Care Volunteer will be given “Bloodborne Pathogen” training.
 2. Review “Palliative Care Program” [OP-140146](#) with each volunteer. Have the volunteer explain the OP in their own words.
 3. Review “Inmate Living Will/Advance Directive for Health Care and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Consent” [OP-140138](#) with each volunteer. Have the volunteer explain the OP in their own words. Ask the volunteer if they would like to complete their own “Living Will/Advanced Care Directive for Health Care” ([DOC 140138A](#)).
 4. ODOC Medical Services staff will provide training for performing hands on care to inmate volunteers utilizing Mosby’s textbook “Long Term Care Assistants, Fourth Edition and the “Inmate Assistant Curriculum”, Attachment B. The following topics will be taught to each volunteer with a successful return demonstration:
 - a. Body mechanics for the patient
 - b. Assisting the patient to sit up in bed
 - c. Assisting the patient to move up in bed
 - d. Turning the patient toward you
 - e. Turning the patient away from you
 - f. Moving and turning the patient with a draw sheet
 - g. Assisting the patient from bed to wheelchair
 - h. Maneuvering a wheelchair and wheelchair safely

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- i. Assisting a patient from wheelchair to car or van and the reverse
 - j. Bed bathing
 - k. Bed changing
 - l. Oral care
 - m. Hair care
 - n. Feeding the patient
 - o. Using the bedpan
 - p. Changing the incontinent pad
5. Explain each component of the “Inmate Volunteer Agreement”, ([OP-140146](#), [Attachment C](#)). It is important that each volunteer fully understand the agreement and understand the ramifications of violations.
 6. Explain role boundaries as defined by [OP-140103](#) entitled “Inmate Assistants.”
 7. Review the “Inmate Palliative Care Volunteer Training Patient Confidentiality Acknowledgement” Attachment A, with volunteer and have the volunteer sign the form.

II. References

OP-140103 entitled “Inmate Assistants”

OP-140138 entitled “Inmate Living Will/Advanced Directive for Health Care”

OP-140146 entitled “Palliative Care Program”

Video “Caring for Terminally Ill Inmates” Volunteers of America GRACE Project”

Video “Angola Prison Hospice- Opening the Door”

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Volunteer Training Curriculum

The Hospice Institute of the Florida Suncoast Volunteer Curriculum

Mosby’s Textbook for Long-Term Care Assistants, Fourth Edition, 2003

III. Action

The Chief Medical Officer, Medical Services will be responsible for compliance with this procedure.

The Chief Medical Officer, Medical Services will be responsible for the annual review and revisions.

Any exceptions to this procedure will require written approval from the director.

The procedure will be effective as indicated.

Replaced: Medical Services Resource Manual 140146-01 entitled "Inmate Palliative Care Volunteer Training" May 30, 2014.

Distribution: Medical Services Resource Manual

Attachments	Title	Located
Attachment A	"Patient Confidentiality Acknowledgement"	Attached
Attachment B	"Inmate Assistant Curriculum"	Attached
Attachment C	"Inmate Volunteer Agreement"	OP-140146