

Pharmacist Washington Death With Dignity Act Overview

The pharmacist's role is to dispense the life-ending medication and to ensure that the patient understands how to take it. The pharmacist is required to return the *Pharmacy Dispensing Record Form* to the Washington State Department of Health within 30 days of dispensing the Washington Death With Dignity Act (DWDA) medication.

Medication Protocol

It is essential that the patient understand how to take the life-ending medication. Request Compassion & Choices of Washington's (C&C) medication protocol by contacting C&C. When you dispense the medication, provide the patient or patient's representative with C&C's *Death With Dignity Instructions for Patients and Families* (available upon request).

Holding the Prescription (Rx)

It is common for patients to request that the pharmacist hold the Rx until the patient is ready to have it on hand.

Designated Pick Up

Because these patients are terminally ill, many of them are not able to get their own prescriptions. The DWDA permits the patient to designate someone else to pick up the medication.

Referral to C&C

If the patient is not a client of C&C, consider providing them with a referral. C&C provides free client support services to support the patient and family through the DWDA process, including providing a supportive presence at the time of death, if requested.

Do Not:

- Accept the Rx from the patient. (The Attending Physician is required to deliver or mail it to you.)
- Dispense the Rx until you receive the original Rx from the patient's Attending Physician. (Faxes are not permissible.)

The pharmacy reporting form is available at www.doh.wa.gov/dwda/forms or by contacting C&C. C&C's Medical Director is available to provide you with support. All contacts are strictly confidential.