

War Memorial Hospital

TYPE: DEPARTMENTAL- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

POLICY: TREATMENT BY SPIRITUAL MEANS

REPLACES: 9/07, 2/14, 12/16

PURPOSE: To define the policy of War Memorial Hospital in regard to the treatment of patients by "Spiritual Means" in the Behavioral Health Center.

PROCEDURE:

A. A patient shall be permitted treatment by spiritual means upon request of the patient, guardian, or nearest relative (as defined by War Memorial Hospital.) WMH's BHC only provides services to adult recipients 18 years of age and older.

B. "Treatment by spiritual means" encompasses a spiritual discipline or school of thought upon which a patient wishes to rely to aid physical or mental recovery and includes easy access, at the patient's expense, both to printed, recorded visual material essential or related to treatment by spiritual means and to a symbolic object of similar significance. [AR 330.7001(r)]

C. Opportunity for contact with agencies, or their representatives, providing treatment by spiritual means shall be provided in the same manner as patients are permitted to see private physicians. Patients may receive calls or visits from their priest, minister, or other spiritual leader at anytime during their stay on the unit. [AR 330.7135(2)]

D. The "right to treatment by spiritual means" includes the right of patients or guardians to refuse medication or other treatment on spiritual grounds if:

1. Spiritual treatment predates current allegations of mental illness or disability. [AR 330.7135(4)]
2. No court order empowering a guardian or a facility to make those decisions. [AR 330.7135(4)(a)]
3. Recipient is not imminently dangerous to self or others. [AR 330.7135(4)(b)]

E. The right to treatment by spiritual means does not include the right:

1. To use mechanical devices or chemical/organic compounds which are physically harmful. [AR 330.7135(5)(a)]
2. To engage in activity prohibited by law. [AR 330.7135(5)(b)]
3. To engage in activity that physically harms the patient or others. [AR 330.7135(5)(c)]
4. To engage in activity which is inconsistent with court ordered treatment or voluntary placement by a person other than the recipient. [AR 330.7135(5)(d)]

F. When a request for treatment by spiritual means is made by guardian of the patient, the patient shall be in agreement and assent to the treatment by spiritual means.

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G. If treatment by spiritual means is denied, a notice (verbal or written) shall be made to the requesting person of the denial of the request and the reasons for denial.

[AR 330.7135(6)(b)]

H. The Behavioral Health Center shall provide for the administrative review or appeal of the denial of treatment by spiritual means at the option of the person requesting such treatment. [AR 330.7135(7)]

Cross Reference and Legal Authority:

[A. Public Act 258 of 1974, as amended - MI Mental Health Code, Sections - 330.1704, 1712, and 1715.](#)

B. MI Department of Community Health Administrative Rules, - R - 330.7011 and 7135

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Date: January 20th, 2017

APPROVED BY: Recipient Rights Advisory Committee Date: April 28, 2017