

**WAC 246-335-610 Definitions—Hospice.** The definitions in this section apply throughout WAC 246-335-605 through 246-335-660 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Assessment" means an evaluation performed by an appropriate health care professional of a patient's physical, psychosocial, emotional and spiritual status related to their terminal illness and other health conditions. This includes evaluating the caregiver's and family's willingness and capability to care for the patient.

(2) "Audio-only telemedicine" means the delivery of health care services through the use of HIPAA-compliant audio-only technology (including web-based applications), permitting real-time communication between the patient and the agency provider for the purpose of consultation, education, diagnosis, or treatment, as appropriate per scope of practice. "Audio-only telemedicine" also includes supervision of home health aide services to evaluate compliance with the plan of care and patient satisfaction with care. "Audio-only telemedicine" does not include the use of facsimile, electronic mail, or text messages.

(3) "Authorizing practitioner" means the individual practitioners licensed in Washington state and authorized to approve a hospice plan of care:

(a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW; or

(b) An advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(4) "Bereavement services" means emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual support and services provided before and after the death of the patient to assist with issues related to grief, loss, and adjustment.

(5) "Dietitian or nutritionist" means a person certified as such under chapter 18.138 RCW or registered by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as a registered dietitian nutritionist; certified by the board for certification of nutrition specialists as a certified nutrition specialist; or certified by the American Clinical Board of Nutrition as a diplomate of the American Clinical Board of Nutrition.

(6) "Director of clinical services" means an individual responsible for nursing, therapy, nutritional, social, or related services that support the plan of care provided by in-home health and hospice agencies.

(7) "Established relationship" means the patient has had, within the past two years, at least one in-person appointment with the agency provider providing audio-only telemedicine or with a provider employed at the same agency as the provider providing audio-only telemedicine; or the patient was referred to the agency provider providing audio-only telemedicine by another provider who has had, within the past two years, at least one in-person appointment with the patient and has provided relevant medical information to the provider providing audio-only telemedicine.

(8) "Home health aide" means an individual who is a nursing assistant certified under chapter 18.88A RCW.

(9) "Hospice agency" means a person administering or providing hospice services directly or through a contract arrangement to individuals in places of permanent or temporary residence under the direction of an interdisciplinary team composed of at least a nurse, social worker, physician, spiritual counselor, and a volunteer.

(10) "Hospice services" means symptom and pain management to a terminally ill individual, and emotional, spiritual and bereavement services for the individual and their family in a place of temporary

or permanent residence, and may include the provision of home health and home care services for the terminally ill individual.

(11) "Interdisciplinary team" means the group of individuals involved in patient care providing hospice services including, at a minimum, a physician, registered nurse, social worker, spiritual counselor and volunteer.

(12) "Licensed practical nurse" or "LPN" means an individual licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(13) "Medication administration" means assistance in the application, instillation or insertion of medications according to a plan of care, for patients of an in-home services agency licensed to provide hospice or hospice care center services and are under the direction of appropriate agency health care personnel. The assistance is provided in accordance with the Nurse Practice Act as defined in chapters 18.79 RCW, 246-840 WAC, and the nursing assistant scope of practice as defined in chapters 18.88A RCW and 246-841 WAC.

(14) "Medical director" means a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW responsible for the medical component of patient care provided in an in-home services agency licensed to provide hospice services according to WAC 246-335-615 (4) (a).

(15) "Patient" means an individual receiving hospice services.

(16) "Palliative care" means specialized care for people living with serious illness. Care is focused on relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness and treatment whatever the diagnosis. The goal is to improve and sustain quality of life for both the patient, loved ones, and other care companions. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness and can be provided along with active treatment. Palliative care facilitates patient autonomy, access to information, and choice. The palliative care team helps patients and families understand the nature of their illness, and make timely, informed decisions about care.

(17) "Registered nurse" or "RN" means an individual licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(18) "Restraint" means:

(a) Any manual method, physical or mechanical device, material, or equipment that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a patient to move their arms, legs, body, or head freely. Restraint does not include devices, such as orthopedically prescribed devices, surgical dressings or bandages, protective helmets, or other methods that involve the physical holding of a patient from falling out of bed, or to permit the patient to participate in activities without the risk of physical harm, or to physically guide a patient from one location to another; or

(b) A drug or medication when it is used as a restriction to manage the patient's behavior or restrict the patient's freedom of movement and is not a standard hospice or palliative care treatment or dosage for the patient's condition.

(19) "Seclusion" means the involuntary confinement of a patient alone in a room or an area from which the patient is physically prevented from leaving.

(20) "Social worker" means a person with a degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010 or who meets qualifications provided in 42 C.F.R. Sec. 418.114 as it existed on January 1, 2012.

(21) "Spiritual counseling" means services provided or coordinated by an individual with knowledge of theology, pastoral counseling or an allied field.

(22) "Telehealth" means a collection of means or methods for enhancing health care, public health, and health education delivery and support using telecommunications technology. Telehealth encompasses a broad variety of technologies and tactics to deliver virtual medical, health, and education services.

(23) "Telemedicine" means the delivery of health care services through the use of HIPAA-compliant, interactive audio and video technology (including web-based applications), permitting real-time communication between the patient and the agency provider for the purpose of consultation, education, supervision, diagnosis, or treatment, as appropriate per scope of practice. "Telemedicine" also includes supervision of home health aide services to evaluate compliance with the plan of care and patient satisfaction with care. "Telemedicine" does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, electronic mail, or text messages.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.127.120, 43.70.250, 2021 c 157, and 2022 c 213. WSR 23-01-032, § 246-335-610, filed 12/11/22, effective 1/11/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.127.120 and 43.70.250. WSR 18-06-093, § 246-335-610, filed 3/6/18, effective 4/6/18.]