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Owner William Robertson: CEO
Area Administrative
Applicability MultiCare System-Wide

Reproductive Health - Pregnancy Terminations

Scope:

This policy applies to all MultiCare locations and to all MultiCare clinicians. This policy applies to all inpatient areas at MultiCare Health System. It includes Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, Auburn Medical Center, Covington Medical Center, Capital Medical Center, Deaconess Hospital, Tacoma General Hospital /Allenmore Hospital, Valley Hospital and all ambulatory areas.

Policy Statement:

Washington State has declared that "every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy with respect to personal reproductive decisions [and] it is the public policy of the state of Washington that: ...Every pregnant individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion ...prior to viability of the fetus or to protect the pregnant individual's life or health." RCW 9.02.100, 9.02.110.

The federal Department of Health & Human Services has reinforced the applicability of EMTALA to pregnant individuals who present to the emergency department. Through CMS guidance, the agency stated that an "emergency medical condition" for pregnant individuals may include ectopic pregnancy, complications of pregnancy loss, and emergent hypotensive disorders, among other conditions. Abortion may be the necessary stabilizing treatment for such condition and must be provided to the patient regardless of state law. www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-22-hospitals.pdf.

Special Instructions:

- A. When a medical interruption of pregnancy occurs such that the pregnancy is highly unlikely to result in a viable infant, the pregnancy is considered a risk to the pregnant individual's life or health.
- B. MultiCare supports our community partners who provide pregnant individuals with access to

abortion and other health care. MultiCare will continue to refer patients to these community providers. If, from a patient safety or clinical capabilities perspective, a MultiCare hospital or other clinical facility is the most appropriate setting for a surgical abortion procedure, then MultiCare will provide access to the necessary care.

Procedure:

1. A health care provider acting within the provider's scope of practice shall make a good faith judgment as to the viability of the fetus or as to the risk to life or health of a pregnant individual when caring for a pregnant individual. RCW 9.02.110, 9.02.130. MultiCare may provide elective or medically indicated terminations of pregnancy or may refer patients to community providers.
2. A provider who objects to the performance of an abortion is not required by MultiCare to participate in the procedure and such decision is without consequences to employment or professional privileges. RCW 9.02.150.
3. The patient is required to give informed consent prior to commencement of the procedure. A minor pregnant individual does not require parental consent. Consent is not required from an individual claiming parentage of the fetus.

Definitions:

Abortion: Any medical treatment intended to induce the termination of a pregnancy except for the purpose of producing a live birth. RCW 9.02.170.

"Reproductive health care services" means all services, care, or products of a medical, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, mental health, behavioral health, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative, supportive, counseling, referral, prescribing, or dispensing nature relating to the human reproductive system including, but not limited to, all services, care, and products relating to pregnancy, assisted reproduction, contraception, miscarriage management, or the termination of a pregnancy, including self-managed terminations. Reproductive health care services are a "protected health care service" in Washington state. RCW 7.115.010.

Viability: The point in the pregnancy when, in the judgment of the physician on the particular facts of the case, there is a reasonable likelihood of the fetus's sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measure. RCW 9.02.170.

Medical Management: When a pregnancy is highly likely to result in fetal demise, a pregnancy carries risks to the life or health of the pregnant individual.

Fetal Death: Any product of conception that shows no evidence of life (breathing, heartbeat, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles) after complete expulsion or extraction from its mother.

Related Forms:

Informed Consent (form #88-0134-2)

References:

RCW 9.02, 7.115.

www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-22-hospitals.pdf

Approved by CEO Council-1/4/2024

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Site Administrator	Michelle Bowers: QM System Project Analyst Sr	02/2024

Applicability

MultiCare All Policies Site-View Only, MultiCare Ambulatory, MultiCare Auburn Medical Center, MultiCare Behavioral Health Network, MultiCare Capital Medical Center, MultiCare Covington Medical Center, MultiCare Deaconess Hospital, MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital, MultiCare Laboratories, MultiCare Mary Bridge Childrens Hospital, MultiCare Tacoma Gen/Allenmore (System-wide), MultiCare Valley Hospital

Standards

No standards are associated with this document