### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the initial assessment to evaluate the patient’s physical, psychosocial and emotional needs and determine immediate care and support needs.

### Policy

### An initial assessment will be performed by a registered nurse within 48 hours after election of hospice care unless otherwise specified by the physician.

### PRocEDURE

* 1. Admitting registered nurse uses an assessment scale/rating tool to assess for problems and to establish a baseline status of each symptom rated. Items assessed may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  2. Pain assessment
  3. Vital signs
  4. Fatigue, drowsiness
  5. Nausea, appetite
  6. Depression, anxiety
  7. Shortness of breath
  8. Well-being
  9. Admitting registered nurse will determine the patient’s and caregiver’s primary concern, goals and immediate care needs.
  10. Admitting registered nurse will document interventions and teaching performed.
  11. Admitting registered nurse will determine the other disciplines to complete the appropriate sections of the comprehensive assessment based on identified problems and needs during this initial assessment.

1. Bereavement contact will always be identified.
   1. Based on the initial assessment, the plan of care will be established on the day of admission.
   2. If the comprehensive assessment is completed during the admission visit, the initial assessment will be included as a part of the comprehensive assessment.