### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for assessments of patients during ongoing care.

### Policy

The scope and intensity of ongoing hospice patient assessments will be determined by the patient's prognosis, diagnoses, condition, desire for care, response to previous care, and the care setting.

### PRocEDURE

1. During each hospice visit, the Case Manager or other discipline will evaluate the patient according to the problems identified during the initial assessment and thereafter the comprehensive assessment.
2. The nurse should assess each patient on each visit, for:
3. Pain, including the origin, location, duration, severity, and relief measures
4. Secondary symptoms related to the terminal illness such as, nausea, vomiting, and respiratory distress, and patient's response to medications and other interventions
5. Factors that alleviate or exacerbate physical symptoms
6. Current treatment related to the identified symptoms and the patient’s response
7. Vital signs appropriate to the patient’s condition
8. Breath sounds
9. Skin integrity
10. Bowel sounds, elimination (urinary and bowel)
11. Mental status
12. Appetite/diet, nutritional status
13. Functional status
14. Safety/home environment
15. Patient and family/caregiver support
16. Progress toward hospice goals and patient needs and problems
17. Compliance with treatments and medication regimen
18. The need for an alternative setting or level of care
19. Ongoing comprehensive assessments should focus on:
20. Patient's response to care
21. Family/caregiver response to plan of care education
22. Changes in patient condition, level of deterioration
23. Changes in patient diagnoses/prognosis
24. Changes in the patient's care environment or support systems
25. Based on the assessments, the plan of care—including problems, needs, goals, and outcomes—will be reviewed and updated by the interdisciplinary group members.
26. Based upon the findings of the assessment, the physician will be consulted for order changes for any treatment/interventions requiring physician approval. Verbal orders will be generated and forwarded to the physician for signature as needed.