

	Comfort Care Procedures in the Intensive Care Unit	Page ____ of ____	Next Review Date
	Departmental	<u>Creation: (date)</u>	
	Owner(s): Nurse Manager, ICU		
	Policy category: Department Specific/Multidepartmental		
Required Signature(s):			

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines to assist physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, social workers, spiritual counselors, and other interdisciplinary staff in providing consistent and compassionate orders when the goals of care for an ICU patient have changed from curative to comfort measures.

PROCEDURE: Confirm the goals of care with the patient/family, legal surrogate decision maker(s), DPOA-HC, and health care providers involved in the care. Guidelines and standard order sets related to comfort care should be utilized during the hospitalization and are attached as appendices to this policy. This includes (but is not limited to):

1. Adult Comfort Care Orders - *See Appendix A*
2. Adult Comfort Care Analgesia Orders - *See Appendix B*
3. Guidelines for Removal of Mechanical Ventilation (RMV) in ICU – *Appendix C*
 - a. Discussion points for staff in educating patients and families about ventilator withdrawal - *[Appendix C-1]*
 - b. Nursing Tip Sheet - *[Appendix C-2]*
 - c. Hospital order set called “ Removal of Mechanical Ventilation (Comfort Care/ICU)” - *[Appendix C-3]*
4. Ketamine for Refractory Pain Management - *Appendix D*