

End of Life Care & Unexpected Death Policy

Statement and Purpose of Policy

This policy summarises the arrangements in place for caring for the terminally ill/palliative care Client to ensure that the Clients and relatives wishes are followed in terms of the care given, which is geared to minimising pain and discomfort and maximising dignity.

Where the Client is diagnosed as having a terminal illness i.e., where death is imminent, a program of palliative care will be put into practice by the relevant professionals. A review of care will be arranged to discuss the needs and changing needs of the Client.

Support and care will be given to enable the Client to spend their final days in their own familiar surroundings.

The Client will be made as comfortable as possible during his-her last days, with all due dignities and requests for care being observed. Care Workers/ Mental Health Support Worker will not attempt to unduly emphasise the Clients condition to the Client, and discretion in dealing with the individual is always paramount. The key objectives here will be to promote the comfort of the Client and to assist the Client as he-she strives for peace of mind in preparing for death.

Both the Client and family / next of kin will engage the services of an appropriate minister of religion (the Clients Plan of care will detail religious / ethnic preferences).

The management will ensure Care Workers/ Mental Health Support Worker receive appropriate skills to assist in such need.

Care Workers/Mental Health Support Worker will spend time with the dying Client if needed and offer comfort. Serenta Homecare will endeavor that a Client is not left alone unless he-she wishes this would be reported to the Manager and other professionals immediately.

Support would be offered to relatives and friends.

As the Clients condition deteriorates, the care plan is constantly reviewed to ensure that the Client maintains maximum control for as long as possible.

Serenta Homecare recognizes that the situation of a dying Client is difficult to manage for individual Care Workers/ Mental Health Support Worker, Care Workers/ Mental Health Support Worker would be offered full support in all situations and constant supervision thereafter.

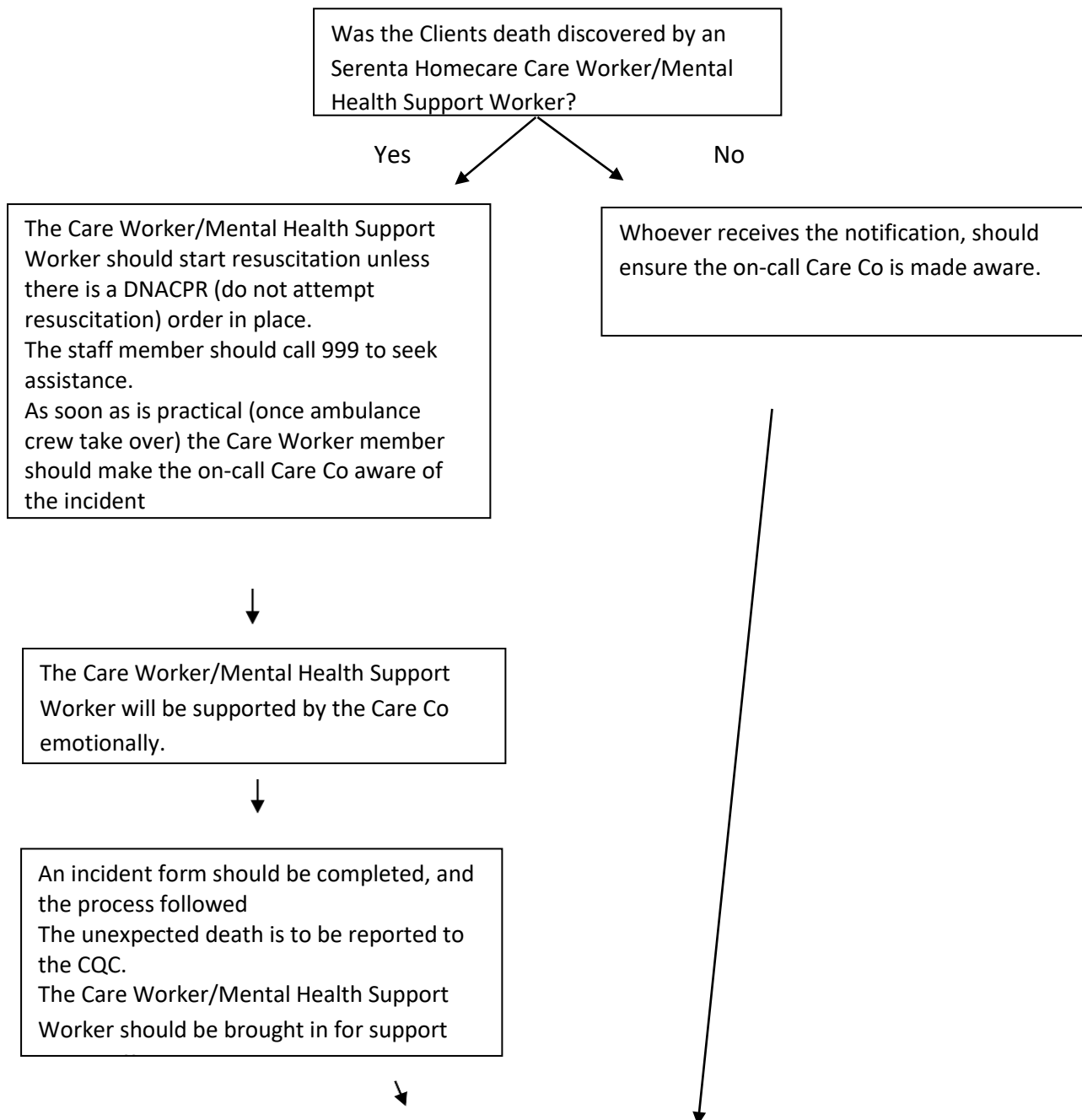
No Care Workers/ Mental Health Support Worker who find it difficult will be placed in the situation.

All Care Workers/ Mental Health Support Worker are required to undertake end of life e-learning as part of their training requirements

Unexpected Death Definition

The definition of an unexpected death is a death that is not expected. This would include deaths of clients that have complex health needs, but that are not expected to die of them at the point they did.

The following process needs to be applied for all unexpected deaths



Check the care plan for any information on cultural requirements for the body. Details are to be added to the care plan. Care Workers/ Mental Health Support Worker who are rostered for visits are to be made aware that their visits are cancelled.

At a respectful juncture the Manager will ensure contact is made with any relatives or those in charge of the Clients possessions to collect any care plans or equipment

Document Control

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