CARE OF THE TERMINALLY ILL

The Agency recognizes that the terminally ill patient and their family have unique and individual psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual needs within the home setting. It shall be the goal of the Agency and its staff to provide active support and to ensure respectful, responsible care directed to optimizing the patient's comfort and dignity and to respecting the patient's values, religion and life philosophy.

Care of the terminally ill patient shall be documented in the clinical record and shall include but not be limited to:

- Ongoing assessment of pain to promote appropriate management of pain and symptoms. The process shall include assessment of the origin, location, severity, alleviating and exacerbating factors, current treatment and response to treatment

- Continuous assessment of the patient to promote appropriate intervention and prevention of secondary symptoms

- Identification and treatment of secondary symptoms that can respond to treatment

- Assessment of the psychosocial and coping mechanisms used by the patient and their family or other caregivers as well as the appropriate support for them in the grief process

Cross Reference: ____________________________________________