



Policy Name  <b>INTRAVENOUS HYDRATION THERAPY</b>		Policy Number: <b>0211</b>
		Effective Date: <b>May 8, 1996</b>
Approved By: Management Committee	Drafted By: Clinical Care Coordinator	Date Revised: <b>December 19, 2012</b>
Classification: Pain and Symptom Management		Page No: <b>Page 1 of 1</b>

## **POLICY**

Intravenous (IV) Therapy is not initiated or continued at The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice. If a prospective Resident is receiving IV therapy at home or in hospital, it must be discontinued prior to admission to the Agapé Hospice. Under rare circumstances IV therapy will only be considered as directed and/or administered by the Attending Physician.

## **RATIONALE**

- ✧ As death approaches, peripheral veins collapse, necessitating IV restarts in the last few hours of life, which Agapé Hospice believes violates the principles of comfort and dignity for the dying.

IV therapy may contribute to increased suffering by causing increase pulmonary secretions and dyspnea, edema, nausea and vomiting.

## **PROCEDURE**

1. This policy **should** be explained to prospective Residents/families by the referring source or during a family/Resident tour.
2. All Residents and/or health advocates must be in agreement to this policy prior to admission to the hospice.

## **CROSS REFERENCE**

Policy # 0108 – Admission to Hospice

## **REFERENCE**

Nutrition Support at the End of Life: A Critical Decision – Today's Dietitian-Volume 10, No. 9 September 2008

Palliative Medicine – Pain and Symptom Control in The Cancer and/or Aids Patient in Uganda and other African Countries – Fourth edition 2006 – A book for health professionals