



ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Advanced directives are directives that outline how a patient wishes to have physicians and nursing staff handle the patient in case there is an emergency and further action must be taken, such as attachment to a life-preserving device. The patient must have the option to determine what steps should or should not be taken in these unusual circumstances.

POLICY

Patients shall have the option of determining advanced directives in case of an emergency. It is the policy of this Center to use every skill and mechanism possible to ensure the safety of the patients that undergo procedures in this Center. If a patient has Advance Directives that include orders to ignore life-saving techniques, such as a "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) order, the Center will NOT honor that request. Nursing and Medical Staff will make every effort to revive the patient and have the patient transferred to a hospital. The hospital will be notified of the patient's advance directives.

PROCEDURE

At the time of admission to the Center, the patient is asked to sign forms relating to their care given that day. In addition to the consent forms, post-operative instructions and any other forms that may need the patient's attention are given to the patient. The patient will have the opportunity to provide advanced directives in case of an emergency. The patient may, at this time, inform the nurse that they have advance directives. The admitting nurse will then inform the patient of the Center's policy. The admitting nurse may also ask the Nurse Manager or Medical Director to inform the patient of the Center's policy.