

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Advanced directives are directives that outline how a patient wishes to have physicians and nursing staff handle their care 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

The surgery center does not honor Advance Directives such as a Living Will or Health Care Power of Attorney. If the patient has an advance directive or living will the Center will put a copy in the chart in case the patient is transferred to the closest hospital which will make decisions about following any advance directive or living will. The patient will be notified of this in advance of the date of the procedure.

PROCEDURE

The patient is informed of the Center policy on Advance Directives when procedure is scheduled in the physician office, at the time of the pre-operative phone call and when the patient is notified of any monies due at time of service; the patient is also informed that this is also on the Centers website.

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, the patient will have the opportunity to provide advanced directives in case of an emergency and transfer to an acute care facility be necessary.

The nurse will inform the patient that the surgery center will not honor an Advance Directive. Both the attending physician and the anesthesiologist will counsel the patient and his/her family giving the patient the option of having the procedure canceled and rescheduled in an acute care facility or the option of rescinding their request that the Advance Directive be followed. If the patient chooses to rescind their request, the physician will fully document the occurrence in the Medical Record.