

ADVANCED SURGICAL CENTER

ADVANCED DIRECTIVES POLICY

As an Accredited Ambulatory Surgery Facility, we are required to advise patients about the nature of Advance Directives and how this affects patients' care in this facility.

The Governing Board, the Medical Director and the Medical Staff have elected to decline to implement elements of an advance directive based on conscience and the fact that patients at this center are pre-screened to limit the possibility of the need of resuscitation.

All procedures performed at our center are elective in nature and patients are presumed to be capable of undergoing the necessary anesthesia and surgical procedure(s). Given the parameters that we use and the expected outcome of a successfully completed operative procedure, all reasonable efforts will be made to resuscitate every patient regardless of the statement in his/her Advance Directives, including a Living Will, "DO NOT RESUCITATE" (DNR) order and or Medical Power of Attorney. Our policy has been made based on careful conscience considerations. Therefore, patients who have an Advance Directive which includes a "DO NOT RESUCITATE" ORDER or other limitations involving life saving measures will not be honored during your care at our center. If you have an Advance Directive of any kind that you would like to have placed in your medical record, please bring the document with you on the day of your procedure. A copy will be made and placed in your medical record to be included with transfer to an appropriate health care facility following resuscitation.

This Ambulatory Surgery Center encourages patients to create Advance Directives and has information about how to create and execute an Advance Directive.

DEFINITIONS

AGENT- A person appointed to make medical decisions for someone else, as a Durable Power of Attorney for healthcare (also called a surrogate or proxy).

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN- The physician selected by or assigned to a patient who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient. When more than one physician shares such responsibility, any such physician may act as the attending physician.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE- A document in which a person either state choices for medical treatment or designates who should make treatment choices if the person should lose decision-making capacity. Examples of these documents are a LIVING WILL and DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTHCARE.

DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY- The ability to make choices that reflect an understand and appreciate of the nature and consequences of one's actions and the patient has not been declare incapacitated by any court nor has a guardian been appointed over his or her person.

DECLARATION- An Advance Directive.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTHCARE (DPAHC) - An Advance Directive in which an individual names someone else (the "agent" or "proxy") to make health care decisions in the event the individual becomes unable to make them himself or herself. The DPAHC can also include instructions about specific healthcare choices to be made.

LIVING WILL- A written document executed by the patient directing that should the patient have a terminal condition, life-sustaining procedures will be withheld or withdrawn.

DIRECTIVE FOR FINAL HEALTHCARE- A written document executed by the patient that combines the DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTHCARE AND LIVING WILL documents.