

Advance Directives/Living Wills

Purpose: To provide the healthcare team members information to assist them in working with patients who have Advance Directives.

Policy: In an ambulatory care setting, where we expect to provide less invasive care to patients who are not acutely ill, admission to the Center indicates the patient will tolerate the procedure in the ambulatory setting without difficulty. If a patient should suffer cardiac or respiratory arrest or any life threatening condition, the patient will be transferred to a more acute level of care, that is the hospital emergency room. If a patient who is to receive a procedure at the Center presents the staff with an advance directive/living will, the patient must be advised that the Center will not honor any advance directive/living wills that do not allow resuscitation. It is the policy of the Center to transfer any patient requiring resuscitation to the hospital. The hospital can determine when to implement the advance directive/living will once the patient or others notify them of the advance directive/living will. It is required by regulation that the provider or facility notify the patient that it will not honor previously signed advance directives/living wills prior to the day of surgery in writing and verbally at the time of pre-admission visit; or by mail and/or phone call for those patients that do not pre-admit. Patients who disagree with this policy must address the issue with the attending physician prior to signing the form acknowledging they received a copy of the Center's policy regarding advance directives/ living wills.