

ADV - Advance Directives

ADV-I INFORMATION

OUTCOME: The patient/family will understand that an advance directive is either a living will or a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

STANDARDS:

1. Explain that an advance directive is a written statement that is completed by the patient prior to mental deterioration, regarding how the patient wants medical decisions to be made.
2. Discuss the two most common forms of advance directives:
 - a. Living will
 - b. Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
3. Explain that a patient may have both a living will and a durable power of attorney for healthcare.

ADV-L LITERATURE

OUTCOME: The patient/family will receive literature about advance directives.

STANDARDS:

1. Provide the patient/family with literature on advance directives.
2. Discuss the content of the literature.

ADV-LW LIVING WILL

OUTCOME: The patient/family will understand living wills.

STANDARDS:

1. Explain that a living will is a document that generally states the kind of medical care a patient wants or does not want in the event the patient becomes unable to make medical care decisions.
2. Explain that the living will may be changed or revoked at any time the patient wishes.
3. Explain that the living will is a legal document and a current copy should be given to the healthcare provider who cares for the patient.

ADV-POA DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

OUTCOME: The patient/family will understand Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

STANDARDS:

1. Explain that in most states, a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care is a signed, dated, witnessed document naming another person, such as a husband, wife, adult child, or friend, as the agent or proxy to make medical decisions in the event that the patient is unable to make them.
2. Explain that instructions can be included regarding ANY treatment/procedure that is wanted or not wanted, such as surgery, a respirator, resuscitative efforts or artificial feeding.
3. Explain that, if the patient's wishes change, the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care can be changed in the same manner it was originated. Explain that a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care may be prepared by an attorney, but this may not be required in some states.
4. Explain that a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care pre-empts any other advance directive. Example: The Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care can authorize the person named in the document to make the decision to apply full resuscitation measures even in the presence of a living will if the patient is incapable of making a decision at the time.

ADV-RI PATIENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

OUTCOME: The patient/family will understand their rights and responsibilities regarding advance directives.

STANDARDS:

1. Explain the patient's right to accept, refuse, or withdraw from treatment, and the consequences of such actions.
2. Explain the patient's right to formulate an advance directive and appoint a surrogate to make healthcare decisions on the patient's behalf.
3. Explain that an advance directive may be changed or canceled by the patient at any time unless the patient has been declared legally incompetent. Any changes should be written, signed, and dated in accordance with state law, and copies should be given to the physician and others who received the original document.
4. Explain that it is the patient/family's responsibility to give a copy of the advance directive to the proxy, the healthcare provider, and to keep a copy in a safe place. An advance directive may be part of the patient's permanent medical record.