



North Raleigh Surgery Center

Advance Directives

PURPOSE

To familiarize staff members and patients and their family members with legal responsibilities and Facility policies in responding to patient emergencies and to provide needed information to other health care facilities in the event of an emergency patient transfer to a higher level of care.

POLICY

All staff members will be given an initial orientation and periodic training on the legal responsibilities of WMSC concerning advance directives. All Medical Staff members and affiliates will be informed of WMSC's policy on advance directives.

All patients will be informed before the day of surgery that advance directives for "do not resuscitate" are not honored at WMSC. In every instance of an emergency or life-threatening situation, advanced cardiac life support procedures will be instituted, and patients will be transferred to a higher level of care. Upon admission, the patient is again questioned as to whether or not he/she has an Advance Directive and at this time will be asked to sign the facility waiver of the directive for the duration of the encounter. Patients who express an interest in formulating advance directives will be given information and referred to their primary physician.

PROCEDURE

1. Staff members attend orientation and training programs in WMSC to identify their roles in discussing advance directives and/or providing information to patients.
2. Notify Medical Staff members and medical affiliates of WMSC's policy on advance directives, place documentation of notification in the Medical Staff member or affiliate's file.
3. Interview patients during the preadmission process to ascertain pre-existence of advance directives and/or interest in formulating advance directives.
 - Request patients with existing advance directives to present all documentation concerning advance directives.
 - > Refer patients who express an interest in formulating advance directives to their primary doctor.
4. Ask patients to sign a witnessed statement indicating their understanding of WMSC's policy on advance directives.
5. If the patient has advance directives, place it in an easily identifiable location in the patient's medical record and on the summary sheet, if available or indicate on the patient record if an advance directive has been executed.
6. In the event of a transfer to a higher level of care, include documentation of the patient's advance directives with the patient transfer