



PATIENT INFORMATION CONCERNING ADVANCE DIRECTIVES AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

All patients have the right to participate in their own health care decisions and to make Advance Directives and/or to execute a Power of Attorney which authorizes others to make decisions on their behalf based on the patient's expressed wishes when the patient is unable to make decisions or unable to communicate decisions. Preston Surgery Center respects and upholds those rights.

The presence of an Advance Directive in a medical record indicates the patient's preference for continued medical care and should be noted. In order to determine if a patient had a Living Will or Advance Directive, the patient is questioned during the admission process. The Surgery Center will not honor the do not resuscitate orders of an Advance Directive. If and adverse event occurs during treatment at this facility, we will initiate resuscitative or stabilizing measures and transfer you to an Acute Care Hospital for further evaluation. At the Acute Care Hospital, further treatment or withdrawal treatment measures already begun will be ordered in accordance with your wishes, Advance Directive, or healthcare Power of Attorney. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of a minor child will at all times be included in the decision-making process regarding the course of treatment for the patient in the event of a patient transfer or transfer of medical records from this facility to another, The Advance Directive should be a part of the record sent. The two most common forms of Advance Directives are the Texas Directive to Physicians and the Texas Medical Power of Attorney.

Texas Directive to Physicians and Family or Surrogates (formerly called Living Will) is a written statement of wishes regarding the use, withholding or withdrawal of life-prolonging treatment, nutrition and hydration if a person has a terminal condition and is incapable of making decisions for himself at the time. The directive can prohibit OR authorize the use of life-prolonging treatments when a person's condition is terminal or irreversible. For example, the document may state that the signer's life should not be artificially prolonged by extraordinary measures when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery from extreme physical or mental disability. However, the documents can request that every effort be made to prolong life by extraordinary measures. Under "additional requests," the individual can add personal instructions, such as a "I want to receive as much pain medication necessary to ensure my comfort," or "I do not want food tube inserted." Generally, this directive only goes into effect if the person is no longer able to make his own decisions.

Texas Medical Power of Attorney (formerly called durable power of attorney for healthcare) allows the individual (principal) to assign someone (agent) to make decisions about his medical care in the event that he becomes incapable of making informed decisions. It allows the principal to provide the agent, family members and healthcare providers with written instructions regarding the kind of treatments that should or should not be given. Even with the Medical Power of Attorney in place, the individual will continue to make his or her own medical decisions as long as he is capable of doing so and can communicate those decisions. The agent's authority starts only when the attending physician certified in writing that the individual no longer has the capacity to make those decisions. Further, a power of attorney can be changed or revoked at any time and does not give the agent authority to override the decision-making of the principal.

Copies of the Texas Advance Directive forms will be made available upon request from the Surgery Center. You may also reference the Texas Health of Safety Code, Chapter 166, on Advance Directives. If you do not agree to the above policy concerning the do not resuscitate orders of an Advance Directive, we are pleased to assist you to reschedule the procedure.