

ADVANCED MEDICAL DIRECTIVES/POLST

PURPOSE:

The Center recognizes the right of patients to make voluntary, informed choices to accept, reject, or choose among alternative courses of medical treatment, including the provision, withholding or withdrawing of life sustaining treatment. The organization also recognizes the right of competent adults to plan ahead for health care decisions through the execution of advance directives and to have their wishes respected, subject to applicable legal limitations.

POLICY:

The organization has established the guidelines and procedures to facilitate the management and resolution of issues surrounding a patient's right to predetermine medical treatment via an advance medical directive.

Should the patient have an advanced medical directive or POLST, the patient care coordinators at the front desk will provide the Pre-op Nurse with the advanced directive/POLST for filing in the medical record. It will be the responsibility of the Pre-op Nurse to report this information to the ASC physicians and staff and file the directive in the chart and note it in the patients' record. The Advanced Directive will not be honored while the patient is at Essex Surgical, LLC, however, should the patient be transferred to a hospital, a copy of the patient's Advanced Directive will be sent with them. The patient will have waived the POLST for the date (s) of service (s) provided at this facility.

QUALIFICATIONS:

All Patient Care Providers

ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVES OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

POLICY: It is the policy of the organization and its Medical Staff to honor the right of competent patients to make their own medical treatment decisions, including decisions that are made prospectively in the form of an Advance Medical Directive. To help patients exercise this right, organization has developed the following operational policies and procedures.

PATIENT CHOICE

Medical treatment decisions are a matter of personal choice. The Medical Staff of the Center is committed to providing each patient or the patient's legal representative with the information he or she needs to understand and consider the options available under State law, but the decision whether or not to act is always up to the patient.

COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAW

At the time of a procedure, patients or their legal representatives should be asked whether or not the patient has an Advance Medical Directive/POLST. If the patient has such a directive or order but it is not presented the patient or representative will be informed that to be honored, the document must be presented prior to performance of the procedure.

INFORMATION

Patients may obtain an informational leaflet prepared by the State Department of Human Resources addressing an adult individual's right to make decisions concerning medical care, including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment and the right to give advance directives.

DOCUMENTATION

Each patient's medical record will contain a reference as to whether or not the person has executed an Advance Medical Directive and/or has obtained POLST. If a patient provides a copy of such directives and/or POLST during the current admission, it will be placed in the patient's medical record of that treatment period.

NO DISCRIMINATION

Whether or not a patient chooses to execute an Advance Medical Directive is a personal matter and will never be a condition of providing care or a basis for discrimination for or against the patient. A patient who provides a POLST will have waived the POLST for the date (s) of service (s) at this facility.

EDUCATION

The organization provides or participates in providing education for our staff and community on issues relating to advance medical directives.

OTHER

Medical treatment decisions sometimes raise difficult issues for patients, family members, and the medical care team to deal with. The organization and its Medical Staff are committed to discussion and resolving these questions as they arise. Patients or their representative who have questions or are unsure about our policies and procedures, are invited to ask any of our professional staff for further clarification.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

ADMITTING POLICY: Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC)

Staff Responsibilities:

Provide information concerning obtaining Advance Medical Directives/POLST to patients.

Inquire whether patient has an Advance Medical Directive, Living will, Durable Medical Power of Attorney, Proxy Directive or POLST.

Confirm that the Advance Medical Directive/POLST presented by patient or his/her legally recognized Representative meets criteria for validity. B (See Attachment for guidelines regarding validity).

If presented, assure that the certified copy of the Advance Medical Directive/POLST is affixed to the Medical Record.

Inquire whether patient would like additional information concerning Advance Medical Directives.

Provide contact phone number for the informational leaflet regarding NJHR delineating patient rights under the Patient Self-Determination Act to patient or person accompanying him/her.

Any concerns or intervention required for the patient will be reported to the surgeon/physician performing the procedure.

Should an emergency medical situation arise while the patient is in the facility, the surgeon and the physician performing the surgery will be responsible for the patient with an Advanced Medical Directive/POLST.

DOCUMENTATION:

Each patient's medical record will contain a reference to whether or not the person has executed an Advance Medical Directive and /or has obtained a POLST. If a patient provides a copy of such directives and/or POLST during the current admission, it will be placed in the patient's medical record of that admission. Review of the Advance Medical Directive provided requires – completion of Validity Checklist and a physician AMD Checklist.

INFECTION CONTROL:

N/A

SAFETY:

Patients served by the Center will have the right make voluntary, informed choices to accept, reject, or choose among alternative courses of medical treatment, including the provision, withholding or withdrawing of life sustaining treatment.

REFERENCES:

New Jersey Advance Directive for Health Care Act
NJSDH Licensing Standards: NJ8:43G, 2004.