



NOTICE TO PATIENTS ABOUT ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

Advance Directives are documents that allow you to state your wishes about medical care in the event that you are unable to speak for yourself. This document also lets you name someone to make health decisions on your behalf any time you are unable to make your own medical decisions.

A summary of Matthews Surgery Center's policy on Advance Directives is as follows:

- You have the right to make choices regarding life-sustaining treatment, including resuscitative measures.
- Because your procedure here is elective, Matthews Surgery Center cannot withhold treatment if an unexpected complication were to arise.
- If there is a need to transfer you to a hospital for additional care measures beyond what we can provide, your Advance Directives will be in your record and honored at the hospital or with your next caregiver upon your arrival.
- We are required to inquire about your legal directives regarding your medical care. However, you are not required to present an Advance Directive document before you have surgery in an ambulatory surgery center.
- You will receive information on applicable State health and safety laws with resources for you to obtain your own copy.
- Please do not bring a blank Advanced Directive form to the Center. It must be completed and witnessed prior to your surgery if you wish to include it in your patient record.

Patient Rights: All patients aged 18 or older shall be provided written information regarding the patient's rights under North Carolina law to make advance directives. In addition, patients shall be provided with a summary of the facility's policies regarding the implementation of such rights, including the facility's policy regarding the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation ("CPR"). (42 U.S.C. 1395cc). No person shall be required to execute or refrain from executing an advance directive in order to receive medical treatment, privileges while in a facility, or as a condition for discharge. N.C.G.S. § 90-321(g); § 122C-73(c).

Types of Advance Directives: North Carolina law recognizes the following advance directives:

- Living will;
- Health care power of attorney (HCPOA);
- Advance instruction for mental health treatment; and
- Military advance directives.

Documentation: There shall be documentation in each patient's medical record indicating whether the patient has an advance directive. If the patient does have an advance directive, education shall be provided with a summary of the facility's policies regarding the implementation of such rights, including the facility's policy regarding the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation ("CPR"). The physician shall document the reason for not complying with the advance directive in the patient's medical record. See N.C.G.S. § 122C-74(h).

Honoring Advance Directives: It is the policy of Matthews Surgery Center **not** to honor patients' Advance Directives requesting withdrawal of care while at the Center. In the event of an adverse event during a patient procedure at Matthews Surgery Center, resuscitative and stabilizing measures will be initiated for every patient, and patients will be transferred to an acute care hospital for further evaluation. If provided to Matthews Surgery Center, the patient's Advance Directives will be transferred to the team at the receiving acute care facility along with the patient's Medical Records and transfer documentation. The acute care hospital will order further treatment or withdrawal of treatment measures in accordance with patient wishes, Advance Directives, and/or Health Care Power of Attorney.