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Owner German Meza:  
Quality Director  
Policy Area Quality Assurance

## End of Life Care: Advance Directives

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### PURPOSE

- I. To clearly inform patients of their rights regarding making end of life care decisions and creating Advance Directive to communicate their preferences for end of life care.

### SCOPE

- I. This policy applies to all Three Rivers Hospital staff, including medical providers, nursing and other staff and all clinical care departments and including Patient Registration Representatives, and those relating to direct patient care.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- I. Hospital administration, all hospital staff and departments and the Compliance Officer will ensure compliance with this policy.

### POLICY

- I. Notification of Rights.
  - A. Upon admission to Three Rivers Hospital, provides each patient with a copy the "Patients' Rights and Responsibilities" statement to assist with making decisions concerning medical care, including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, and the right to formulate Advanced Directives.
  - B. Each patient admitted to Three Rivers Hospital will be asked, by the admissions clerk, whether they have an Advanced Directive or not. Every patient admitted as Same Day Surgery, Swing Bed, Observation, or Acute Care will be asked, by the nurse, if they have an Advanced Directive or a living will. This will be documented in the patient's chart.
- II. Three Rivers Hospital:

- A. Endorses the patient's right to formulate an Advance Directives; and
- B. It provides care settings supporting the patient's choice of forgoing or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment and withholding resuscitative services;
- C. Provides adult patients with written information about their rights to accept or refuse treatment and hospital policies addressing these rights;
- D. Documents the existence or absence of a patient's signed Advance Directive;
- E. Documents and honors, within the limits of the law or hospital capacity, a patient's wishes concerning organ donation;
- F. Upon request, helps or refers patients for assistance in formulating Advance Directives, including reviewing and revising existing directives; and
- G. Has a mechanism for health care professionals and designated representatives to honor Advance Directives within limits of the law or hospital capabilities.
- H. The patient will be informed that complaints concerning the Advanced Directive requirements may be filed with the state survey and certification agency.
- I. The staff are educated on the facility's policy and procedure concerning Advanced Directives.
- J. The hospital will provide community education.

III. In outpatient hospital settings, the hospital:

- A. Has policies in place addressing Advance Directives, specifying the circumstances under which the hospital will honor the directives;
- B. Informs patients and families of these policies upon request or as appropriate for care, treatment, and services provided; and
- C. Helps patients formulate Advance Directives or refer them to other entities for assistance.

IV. Patients have the right to pain management. Three Rivers Hospital staff plan, support, and coordinate activities and resources to alleviate patient pain including:

- A. Assess for pain;
- B. Educate all relevant providers about assessing and managing pain; and
- C. Educate patients and families about their roles in managing pain, including the potential limitations and side effects of pain treatments.

V. The hospital develops plans for care, treatment, and services is individualized and appropriate to the patient's needs, strengths, limitations, and goals.

VI. The hospital's care of the patient is not conditioned on or otherwise discriminated on based on the presence or absence of an Advance Directive.

VII. Comfort and dignity are optimized during end-of-life care.

- A. The hospital will educate staff about the unique needs of dying patients and their families and caregivers.

VIII. Surrogate Decision-Making:

- A. Patients are involved in decisions about care, treatment, and services provided.
- B. Patients have the right to refuse care, treatment, and services in accordance with law and regulations.

## REFERENCES

42 CFR §423.128 Informed consent and advance directives.

42 CFR §489.102 Right of the patient to make medical decisions.

42 CFR §482.13(b)(3). Condition of Participation, patient rights, Right of the patient to formulate advance directives.

RCW 70.122 Natural Death Act.

RCW 70.122.030 Directive to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining health care.

## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
CEO	James Graham: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	12/2021
Board of Commissioners	Leslie McNamara: Board Secretary	12/2021
Chief Medical Officer	Ty Witt: Chief Medical Officer	12/2021
CFO	Jennifer Munson: Chief Financial Officer	12/2021
HR	Anita Fisk: Director of Human Resources	12/2021
Policy Committee	Deborah Grace Gordon: Interim Director of Quality	10/2021
	James Graham: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	10/2021
Policy Committee	Jennifer Best: Business Development Coordinator	07/2021