



Title:	<b>End of Life Care, Advance Directives</b>	Effective Date:	<b>Not Set</b>
Categories:	<b>Emergency Department, Family Practice Clinic, Hospital Nursing</b>	Approved Date:	<b>08/24/2023</b>
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**POLICY:**

It is the policy of Cascade Medical to comply with the federal Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA) of 1991. Cascade Medical respects the rights of individuals to make advance decision involving health care and mental health as codified in the Natural Death Act, RCW 7-0.122 and RCW 71.32 regarding mental health advance directives. It is the intent of Cascade Medical to assist patients, staff and the community in understanding advance directives.

Cascade Medical does not condition the provision of care or otherwise discriminate against an individual based upon whether or not the individual has executed an advance directive.

Cascade Medical, as a facility, does not participate in the Death With Dignity Act. Please refer to policy Board "Governance Policy regarding Washington's Death With Dignity Act" for specific information regarding the Washington State Death With Dignity Act.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Patients admitting to Cascade Medical in an acute or swing bed will receive information regarding advance directives and rights to refuse medical or surgical treatment in their admission packet. Specific information will be provided on the following forms of advance directives:
  - a. Living Will
  - b. Directive to Physician
  - c. Durable Power of Attorney
  - d. Physicians' orders for life sustaining treatment (POLST)
2. Patients and/or their representatives who have questions regarding advance directives will be referred to social services.
3. Presence or absence of Advance Directives will be charted in the electronic medical record of the patient.
4. Advance directives, as outlined in #1 above, regarding health care or mental health treatment will be respected and acknowledged by Cascade Medical care providers in the development of care plans and provision of care.
5. Individuals with complaints regarding advance directives that cannot be resolved by Cascade Medical will be referred to the state survey and certification agency by Cascade Medical social services.