

Information Regarding Advance Directives

Advance directives are legal documents that allow you to convey your decisions about end-of-life care ahead of time. They provide a way for you to communicate your wishes to family, friends and health care professionals, and to avoid confusion later on.

A living will tells how you feel about care intended to sustain life. You can accept or refuse medical care. There are many issues to address, including but not limited to:

- The use of life sustaining machinery (Ventilators, Dialysis)
- Whether or not you want to be resuscitated if breathing or heartbeat stops
- Tube feeding and other life sustaining processes
- Organ or tissue donation

A durable power of attorney for health care is a document that names your health care proxy. Your proxy is someone you trust to make health decisions if you are unable to do so.

While all of these documents play a very important role as to how healthcare decisions are made on your behalf, it is the policy of Surgery Center of Santa Monica that we **DO NOT** honor Advance Directives during your episode of care at the facility.

If you have an Advance Directive, please bring it with you for your visit to Surgery Center of Santa Monica and we will place it in your medical record for reference in the unlikely event you are transferred to the hospital.

If you do not have an Advance Directive and would like more information, please contact the State of California Office of the Attorney General at 800-952-5225 or visit their website at http://ag.ca.gov/consumers/general/adv_hc_dir.htm