

## **SURGERY CENTER OF LAKE LAND HILLS BOULEVARD**

### **NOTICE TO PATIENTS REGARDING YOUR RIGHT TO MAKE ADVANCED HEALTH CARE DECISIONS**

Federal law requires that we have information available to you about your right to make Advance Health Care decisions. Right now, you may be able to make your own health care decisions. You may not always be able to make such decisions. By giving advance directions, you can tell your doctor and family about medical care that you would like to receive and whether you want another person to be able to accept or refuse treatment for you, just in case you are no longer able to make such decisions yourself. You can name a person to make medical treatment decisions for you by appointing a "Health Care Surrogate". Florida law allows two similar forms to state the name of this person: "Designation of Health Care Surrogate" and "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care". This person is allowed to make health care decisions for you, but only after two doctors have agreed that you are no longer able to make your own health care decisions.

You can also leave Advance Directives about life support. This is often called a "Living Will". A Living Will tells your doctor and family about the types of support that you want to be provided or withheld in case you are ever kept alive by artificial means and are no longer able to make decisions yourself.

If you already have a Health Care Surrogate, Durable Power of Attorney, or a Living Will, please tell your doctor. If you should ever have future hospitalization, please give a copy to their admissions office.

We can provide you with a blank copy of these documents for your convenience. Legal assistance is not necessary to complete these forms. However, please feel free to call your private attorney, or Lawyers Referral Service of Polk- (863) 686-1900

It is the policy of community hospitals to honor a patient's health care decision to the fullest extent required or allowed by law. You are not required to give Advanced Health Care Directives in order to receive care at the hospitals. Advanced Directives are not intended for Ambulatory Surgery Centers such as ours. Our patients are generally healthier and therefore able to have their procedures done as an outpatient. If there should be a problem, we are committed to returning you to your optimal state of health.

**LIVING WILL  
FLORIDA DECLARATION**

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_, of my own free will, make known my desire that my dying not be artificially prolonged under any of the circumstances set out below and do hereby declare that:

Should I develop a terminal condition, and if my attending physician determines that there can be no reasonable expectation of recovery from such a condition, and that my death is imminent, I hereby direct that life-prolonging procedures be withheld or withdrawn when such procedures serve only to artificially prolong the process of my dying. Under such circumstances, it is my desire that I be permitted to die naturally, with only the administration of such medication or the performance of any such medical procedure judged necessary to provide me with comfort and to provide pain relief. Relating to the administration of nutrition and hydration (food and fluids), I do \_\_\_\_\_, I do not \_\_\_\_\_ (check one) desire that such be withheld or withdrawn when such procedures serve to only prolong in an artificial way the process of my dying. It is my intent that should I be unable to give directions regarding the use of life-prolonging procedures, that this represent the declaration of my intent that will be honored by my physicians, as well as by my family, as a valid representation of my legal rights to refuse medical and/or surgical treatment and to accept the consequences as such.

I fully understand the importance and consequences of this declaration, I am competent to make such declaration and it is my desire to do so. I make this declaration without coercion and of my own free will.

(If I am diagnosed as pregnant and that diagnosis is known to my physician, this declaration shall not be in effect in the course of my pregnancy)

I do \_\_\_\_\_, I do not \_\_\_\_\_ (check one) desire to donate my organs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Declaration of Witness:**

The above is known to me and it is my judgment that he/she is of sound mind and is making the above declaration of his/her free will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness #2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

### **Here's what to do:**

- Fill out a form (available here), write down exactly what you want your doctor and family to know, sign it, date it, and have it witnessed.
- If you are going to have someone else make decisions for you, pick someone who thinks about medical care the way you do. What this means is that when decisions are made, they should be decisions that you would be able to agree with if you were the person in charge. The only reason you would not be in charge would be because your medical condition made you unable to make those decisions. (Example: When you are unconscious)
- Once you have completed a Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, you should give a copy to the person who will be making those decisions, a copy to your doctor for your medical file, and you should keep a copy of it yourself, in a place where it can be found if someone needs to look for it if you become disabled.
- Any changes that you want to make in your advance directives should be in writing (or may be spoken) and all the people who have a copy of the advance directives should be told that you have made those changes. A copy of those changes should be given to those people so that they know your most recent desire.
- It is strongly recommended that you keep a card or note in your wallet or purse that states you do have an Advance Directive, and who to contact or where to find that Advance Directive if a situation arises where you cannot make decisions for yourself.

You can always change your mind about what is in an Advance Directive. The only thing an Advance Directive can be used for is when you are mentally disabled and cannot make healthcare decisions. Once you are able to make decisions for yourself again, the Advance Directive is not in effect, although it will remain on stand-by should you ever become disabled and cannot make decisions for yourself.

## **ADVANCE DIRECTIVES**

### **WHAT ARE THEY?**

Statements that tell you doctor and family what care you would like to have when you are not able to make those decisions because of the seriousness of your injury or illness.

There are two kinds of Advance Directives:

1. A Living Will
2. Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare

### **A LIVING WILL – WHAT IS IT?**

It is a statement that lets you tell your doctor and family your wishes if there were no hope for your recovery and you become unable to make your own decisions. An example of this would be whether to continue to use a breathing machine to keep you alive if you were in a permanent coma following an automobile accident.

### **DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE – WHAT IS IT ?**

It is a statement in which you appoint a person to make medical judgements for you if you become unable to make those decisions like the one you would make if you were able. Usually that person is a relative or a close friend.

### **IS ONE BETTER THAN THE OTHER?**

They are different and they are used for different things so they are both good. These statements are to help your family and your doctor make decisions concerning your healthcare at a time when you are not able to make those decisions. You may use one or both of these forms of advance directives to provide directions for your medical care. You may combine them into a single statement that appoints a person to make medical decisions for you and also advises that person of your wishes if there is no expectation for reasonable survival.

### **CAN I CHANGE MY MIND?**

Yes ! You can change your mind or cancel your statements at any time. Changes should be written, signed and dated. You can also make your change of opinion by telling someone(an oral statement).

### **WHO SHOULD MAKE ADVANCE DIRECTIVES?**

Because we may have a serious illness or injury at any age, all adults should have an advance directive.

**Advance Directives are not for use in Ambulatory Surgery Centers.**