



## ADVANCED DIRECTIVES

**Policy:** Each Adult Patient admitted to Tri-State Surgical Center, has the right to determine the course of his/her medical care and treatment. An Adult is defined as any person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or is the parent of a child, or has married. Tri-State Surgical Center, shall honor this right by not only supporting thorough discussion of treatment options and preferences between the patient and his or her care givers, but also by establishing and following policies and procedures to inform the Adult Patient regarding his/her rights and to identify and document Advanced Directives (AD) regarding the Adult Patient's wishes. An AD enables an Adult Patient to declare his/her wishes about the care he/she receives in cases where the Adult Patient is unable to speak for him or her self.

**Procedure:** Upon admission to Tri-State Surgical Center, each Adult Patient or the patient's representative is interviewed to determine whether any type of AD exists. An AD may include such things as (i) written statement of an Adult Patient's treatment preferences on matters such as (but not limited to) cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), life-prolonging treatment and /or artificial hydration and nutrition (a written statement of this nature is sometimes referred to as a "living will"), and/or (ii) a written statement, known as a HealthCare Proxy, which designates an Agent who can make treatment decisions for an Adult Patient if the patient lacks Capacity.

If the patient wishes to have an AD, the ASC personnel shall notify the attending physician. The Physician will offer assistance and encouragement to the Adult Patient to complete a Health Care Proxy and designate an Agent and to identify treatment preferences. ASC personnel will document whether or not the adult has executed a health care proxy or whether the adult has provided written advance instructions about treatment, on the assessment/admission sheet, which is filled out prior or upon the Adult Patient's admission to Tri-State Surgical Center.

A written AD is acceptable only if signed and dated by the Adult Patient and notarized. If available, a copy is placed in the Medical Record. If not immediately available, the substance of the AD is recorded on the admission sheet and the Adult Patient or the patient's representative is requested to produce the written document promptly. Once the written document (or a copy) is produced, a copy is placed in the patient's chart.

The following material will be furnished to each adult patient upon request, or if the patient lacks capacity, to the family member or other adult who speaks on the patient's behalf.

- "Planning in Advance for your Medical Treatment"
- A copy of the Advanced Directives Policy

The adult patient will not be discriminated against in the provision of care or otherwise discriminated against based on whether or not the adult has executed as advanced directive.