

HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: II-137 ADVANCE DIRECTIVES	POLICY #: 1058
	VERSION: 1
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DATE APPROVED: 06/28/2016	

PURPOSE: To ensure patients are provided with information concerning their right to prepare advance health care directives, as required by regulatory agencies.

POLICY: All patients 18 years and older, including emancipated minors, scheduled to undergo a surgical or invasive procedure at the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) will be asked if they have an advance directive, or if they would like information about advance directives.

PROCEDURE:

1. Nursing staff, in the Pre-Anesthesia Evaluation Unit, will ask the patient if they have an advance directive.
2. The patient's response will be documented in the medical record.
3. If the patient has an advance directive, they will be asked to bring a copy on the day of surgery to be placed in the medical record.
4. If the patient does not have an advance directive, they will be offered information about it.
5. If the patient requires legal advice or consultation regarding advance directives, they will be referred to their personal attorney.
6. On the day of surgery, the patient will be asked again if they have an advance directive and for a copy, if the response is positive.
7. If the patient provides a copy of their advance directive, it will be placed in the medical record and the chart will be identified, with a laminated Advance Directive card clipped to the front of the chart.
8. Patients will be advised that if an adverse event occurs during their treatment in the ASC, the personnel will initiate resuscitative or other stabilizing measures

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and transfer them to an acute care hospital for further evaluation. At the acute care hospital further treatment or withdrawal of treatment measures already begun will be ordered in accordance with the patient’s wishes, advance directive, or health care power of attorney.

9. When contacting a patient to provide and/or confirm the date & time of the surgical procedure, the ASC staff will also ask if the patient has an advance directive. If the answer is yes, the patient will be asked to bring a coy with them on the day of surgery.

REFERENCES: Patient Self- determination Act

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