

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER POLICY

Subject: DECISION MAKING, PATIENT		Original Issue Date: 3/98	Policy # 214
		Supersedes: 2/11/14	Effective Date: 9/16/20
Departments Consulted: Office of Risk Management Ethics Resource Committee	Reviewed & Approved by: Attending Staff Association Executive Committee Senior Executive Council	Approved by: (Signature on File) Chief Medical Officer	
		(Signature on File) Chief Executive Officer	

PURPOSE

To ensure that the patient's fundamental right to control the decisions regarding his or her own health care is recognized and respected; and to ensure that an appropriate surrogate makes decisions in accordance with the patient's wishes and/or best interests when the patient is unable to do so, or at the patient's request.

POLICY

The rights of patients and/or their surrogate decision-makers to control the decisions relating to the patient's own health care shall be respected in all areas, including development of care plans and delivery of service(s).

PROCEDURE

Minimally, the Medical Center shall develop and implement policies, guidelines, and procedures that address:

- Patient/surrogate decision-making regarding treatment, care, and service.
- When necessary, using an appropriate surrogate to make decisions on behalf of the patient in regard to all aspects of care or treatment decisions.
- Resolving conflict in care or treatment decisions.
- Forgoing resuscitation or other life-sustaining treatment; addressing when it is appropriate to initiate resuscitative services or use or remove life-sustaining treatment; and identifying individuals to be involved in such decision-making.
- Conducting investigational studies or clinical trials.
- The Senior Executive Council is charged to ensure the Medical Center facilities, departments, services, functions, and areas develop and implement policies, guidelines, and procedures that conform to applicable Medical Center policies, and all legal and regulatory requirements.

Subject: **DECISION MAKING, PATIENT**

Effective Date: 9/16/20

RESPONSIBILITY

Senior Executive Council
Administrators
Attending Staff
Housestaff
Allied Health Professionals
Nursing Staff
Chaplain
Clinical and Psychiatric Social Services
Ancillary Support Services

PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION

Attending Staff Manual
Nursing Services and Education Policy Manual
Departmental Policy and Procedure Manuals

REFERENCES

California Probate Code, Sections 4600 through 4743
DHS Policy #326, An Adult Patient's Right to Participate in and Direct Decisions Affecting His or Her Health Care
Medical Center Policies #s 200, Patient Rights; 202; Patient Responsibilities; 204, Advance Directives; 205; Consent for Care; 211, Leaving Against Medical Advice; 213, Code of Ethical Organization and Professional Behavior; 215; Refusal of Treatment; 233, Research Approval and Consent
Joint Commission Standards (Ethics, Rights, and Responsibilities)

REVISION DATES

November 13, 1998; April 16, 2002; March 28, 2005; October 15, 2008; February 11, 2014, September 16, 2020