

Three Rivers Hospital

DEPARTMENT: Facility Wide	<i>Page 1 of 1</i>	<u>Effective Date:</u>	3/19/2014	
		<u>Approval Date:</u>		
SUBJECT: End of Life Care	Medical Director	Date		
	Director of Patient Care	Date		
	Chief Executive Officer	Date		

Signed
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POLICY

- I. Upon admission to Three Rivers Hospital, each patient will receive the Patients' Rights and Responsibilities to assist with making decisions concerning medical care including: the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, and the right to formulate advanced directives.

- II. Each patient admitted to Three Rivers Hospital will be asked, by the admissions clerk, as to whether they have an advanced directive or not. Every patient admitted as Same Day Surgery, Swingbed, Observation, Obstetrics or Acute Care will be asked, by the nurse, if they have an advanced directive or a living will. This will be documented in the patients chart.

- III. Hospitals must comply with the following elements:
 - A. have policies, in accordance with law and regulations, that address advance directives and the framework for forgoing or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment and withholding resuscitative services and consistently implement them;
 - B. provide adult patients with written information about their rights to accept or refuse treatment and hospital policies addressing these rights;
 - C. document the existence or absence of a patient's signed advance directive;
 - D. document and honor, within the limits of the law or hospital capacity, a patients' wishes concerning organ donation;
 - E. upon request, help or refer patients for assistance in formulating advance directives, including reviewing and revising existing directives; and
 - F. have a mechanism for health care professionals and designated representatives to honor advance directives within limits of the law or hospital capabilities.
 - G. the patient will be informed that complaints concerning the advanced directive requirements may be filed with the state survey and certification agency.
 - H. the staff will be educated on the facility's policy and procedure concerning advanced directives.
 - I. provide community education.

- IV. In outpatient hospital settings, the hospital must:
 - A. develop and implement policies addressing advance directives, specifying whether the hospital will honor the directives;
 - B. inform patients and families of these policies upon request or as appropriate for care, treatment, and services provided; and

- C. help patients formulate advance directives or refer them to other entities for assistance.
- V. Patients have the right to pain management. Hospitals must plan, support, and coordinate activities and resources to:
 - A. assess for pain;
 - B. educate all relevant providers about assessing and managing pain; and
 - C. educate patients and families about their roles in managing pain, including the potential limitations and side effects of pain treatments.
- VI. Development of a plan for care, treatment, and services is individualized and appropriate to the patient's needs, strengths, limitations, and goals.
- VII. Comfort and dignity are optimized during end-of-life care.
 - A. Hospital educate staff about the unique needs of dying patients and their families and caregivers.
- VIII. Surrogate Decision-Making:
 - A. Patients are involved in decisions about care, treatment, and services provided.
 - B. Patients have the right to refuse care, treatment, and services in accordance with law and regulations.