

HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVES AND DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS

It is the policy of the Wauwatosa Surgery Center not to honor Advance Directives. It is also the policy not to honor Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders from Physicians who are not credentialed at the center. Our philosophy:

Due to the elective nature of procedures performed at this facility, the overall healthier patient population, and the lower acuity of the procedures performed.....we believe it to be in the best interest of the patient that we temporarily suspend any Advance Directives / Living Wills /DNR's during their entire stay (from admission through discharge). We will stabilize patients and then transfer them to a hospital that is better able to ascertain the patient's overall condition. The transfer facility will then honor the patient's Advance Directive as necessary.

DEFINITIONS

Advance Directive: An order written by a physician for no resuscitative measures to be done when an end of life event occurs.

PROCEDURE

1. During the pre-operative call, or at the time of admission, all legal adults will be asked if they have an Advance Directive.
2. Patients that answer "yes" will be informed that the center does not honor Advance Directives. They will also be informed that in an event occurs that requires resuscitation, they will be transferred to a hospital where further testing can occur to determine if it is an end of life event.
3. If a patient disagrees with this, they may choose to seek care in an alternative healthcare setting.
4. If a patient says "no, they do not have an Advance Directive", they will be informed that they may request information about Advance Directives when they are at the center.