

Policy on Advanced Directives

The Federal Patient Self-Determination Act gives people the right to accept or refuse treatment. Advanced Care Directives are defined as instructions that a person gives to family and healthcare providers to communicate such decisions. They provide directions regarding future medical care. They are used when an individual becomes unable to make decisions. They can also be used when the person can't communicate decisions personally. Advanced Directives can be written or verbal.

Advanced care directives may include the following:

- Living Will
- Health Care Power of Attorney
- Advance Health Care Directive (such as New York's Health Care Proxy)

An Advance Health Care Directive has some of the features of the Living Will. It also has features of the HCPA. New York State has a special form of this directive referred to as the "Health Care Proxy". More information about this proxy is available at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/hospital/healthcareproxy/intro.htm>.

Advanced Directives: The following documents are available to all Sterling Surgical Center patients:

- Appointing your Health Care Agent - New York State's Proxy Law (From DOH): http://www.health.state.ny.us/professionals/patients/health_care_proxy/index.htm
- A summary of the Facility's Policy regarding the implementation of the Advance Directives

In addition, prior to procedure the patient will be asked about advanced directives, such as the New York State Proxy. If the patient has executed or wishes to execute a Health Care Proxy, a copy of such form will be obtained and prominently displayed in the patient's record. If the patient indicates that there are any other types of advanced directives, such as a Do Not Resuscitate Order, the Charge Nurse, Clinical or Business Administrator or Medical Director will meet with the patient and/or his agent to discuss the Proxy.

Do Not Resuscitate Orders Of special concern to the Sterling Surgical Center, LLC, is a form of Advance Health Care Directive entitled the Do Not Resuscitate Order or DNR Order.

A DNR is in an Order only for the withholding of CPR and not for withholding any other treatment of care. The patient with a DNR Order is to continue to receive support, counseling, appropriate comfort care, and other indicated medical care. A DNR Order will permit resuscitation in order to reverse a condition caused by the administration of anesthesia.

It is the policy of the Sterling Surgical Center, LLC that DNR orders will not be in effect during the stay of a patient in the facility. If the patient refuses to allow the DNR order to be put down – the surgeon will discuss with the patient alternative facilities in which the procedure can be done.