

Patient Rights and Responsibilities

The Living Will States your wishes regarding life-prolonging medical care if you are in a terminal condition and cannot speak for yourself. It must be signed, dated, and witnessed.

The Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPOAH) is a signed, dated, and witnessed document naming another person, the Patient Advocate, to make decisions for you if you are unable to make them for yourself. This document can include written instructions about any treatment you would accept or choose to avoid. The DPOAH is the one type of Advance Directive that is legally recognized in the state of Michigan.

This medical practice has DPOAH forms available for you. *Please note, however, that, by law, health care workers are not allowed to witness this document.*

This medical practice acknowledges and supports your right and responsibility to make health care decisions. This includes the right to accept or refuse life-sustaining medical treatment and the use of Advance Directives for same. Establishing an Advance Directive, however, is entirely voluntary and not a prerequisite for medical care.

Should you decide to complete the DPOAH form, please bring a copy to the medical office and it will be retained in your medical chart. This will ensure that we are following your most current health care decisions. Always maintain the original. Provide new copies to the above-named individuals each time you reaffirm or make changes to the DPOAH.

The physicians and staff of this practice will protect, respect, and preserve patients' basic rights of independence of expression, decision, and action, and concern for personal dignity and human relationships.

The philosophy of this practice is dedicated to the alleviation of human suffering and the affirmation of the innate dignity of every person. In our provision of health care services, we strive to provide quality care while preserving the dignity of the patients.

Your Rights

- A) Patients will be facilitated access to treatment that is available and medically indicated in accordance with state and federal standards regardless of diagnosis, race, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, sexual preference, or source of payment. This is in compliance with 45 CFR Parts 80, 84, and 91 respectively. The person designated to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (nondiscrimination against the handicapped) is the Privacy and Security Officer whose number is posted in the office.
- B) Patients are entitled to participate in decisions about their health care. This includes their right to accept or refuse life-sustaining treatment and to exercise this right through the formulation and execution of advance directives.
- C) Patients also have the right to designate a surrogate decision maker for medical treatment and health care decisions in the event that they become incapacitated or incompetent and would be unable to participate in decision making.
- D) Individuals who are or have been patients are entitled to inspect, or receive for a reasonable fee, a copy of their medical record upon request. A third party shall not be given a copy of the patient's medical record without prior written authorization of the patient.
- E) Patients are entitled to confidential treatment of personal and medical records, and may refuse their release to a person outside the facility, except as required by law or third-party payment contract. Individuals who are not directly involved with treatment or the monitoring of its quality may be present during discussion of care with the patient's permission.
- F) Patients are entitled to privacy, to the extent feasible, in treatment and caring for personal needs with consideration, respect, and full recognition of their dignity and individuality.
- G) Patients are entitled to receive appropriate care, and to obtain complete and current information concerning diagnosis, treatment, and proposed future health care needs and prospects for recovery from the physician in understandable language.
- H) Patients are entitled to refuse treatment, in accordance with the law, and to be informed of the consequences of that refusal. When a refusal of treatment prevents a health facility or its staff from providing appropriate care according to ethical and professional standards, the relationship with the patient may be terminated upon reasonable notice.