

Purpose: To define Gastro Health's policy on Advanced Directives

Advance Directives allow a person to give directions about medical care or to designate another person(s) to make medical decisions if he or she should lose decision-making capacity. Advance directives may include living wills, durable powers of attorney or similar documents portraying the patient's preference.

The existence of an advance directive, or lack thereof, will not determine the patient's access to care, treatment or services.

As specialists providing outpatient services in an ambulatory setting, Gastro Health's Endoscopy Center Providers do not directly address advance directives with patients scheduled for procedures at our centers. In addition, if a patient requests advance directive forms or information regarding the health and safety laws for Washington State, they will be provided.

Should an untoward event happen to a patient while he or she is in our facility, it is our policy to stabilize the patient and transport to the appropriate hospital with a copy of the advance directive. Patients not agreeing to the Statement of Limitation will be redirected to another healthcare provider prior to the procedure. At all Gastro Health Endoscopy Centers, staff will perform the usual life sustaining procedures and call 911 to transport the patient to the appropriate hospital Emergency Department with a copy of the advance directive if available on the patient's chart.