

SOUTHWEST ENDOSCOPY POLICY ON ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

Southwest Endoscopy, Ltd. is a limited purpose, single specialty ASC dedicated to the study and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases and disorders. Southwest Endoscopy will honor Advance Directives to the extent allowed by our policies approved by the Governing Body. If a patient has an Advance Directive and does NOT wish to be resuscitated, the patient will not be scheduled at Southwest Endoscopy.

The Governing Body has reviewed and approved the following standard regarding the implementation of Advance Directives in the facility. In the event a life-threatening emergency occurs (i.e. respiratory or cardiac arrest), Southwest Endoscopy will implement the following on all patients:

- Perform emergency procedures, as necessary, to stabilize the patient.
- Transfer the patient to an acute healthcare facility where the attending physician and family can make an informed decision regarding the patient's well-being.

INFORMATION ON ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

There may be a time in your life when you are unable to make healthcare choices for yourself. Some serious decisions that people are often called upon to make include treatment choices, artificial life support, and quality of life. You have a choice about medical interventions such as ventilators, CPR, drugs to sustain blood pressure, antibiotics, artificial nutrition (food) and hydration (water).

There are two legal documents that allow you to express your wishes about healthcare decisions. These documents allow you to determine your decision about certain medical treatments and procedures in advance of illness or life-threatening circumstances. Advance Healthcare Directives consist of a Living Will and a Power of Attorney for Healthcare. You may complete either or both documents.

Living Wills

A Living Will allows you to decide for yourself how you would address specific end-of-life decisions.

There are three choices that the Living Will provides:

- In the case of an incurable and irreversible condition that will result in your death within a relatively short time.
- You become unconscious and, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, will not regain consciousness.
- The likely risks and burdens of treatment would outweigh the expected benefits.

This choice also allows you to determine if you want to receive artificial food and water based on the conditions listed above. Unless you were to specifically object, this choice would also provide treatment to ease any pain and discomfort.

The **second** choice is to prolong your life if possible, within the limits of generally accepted healthcare practices

The **third** choice is not to make a specific choice yourself but to allow a person of your choice (Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decisions) to make end-of-life decisions for you.

Power of Attorney or Surrogate for Healthcare

A Power of Attorney for Healthcare allows you to choose a person to make healthcare decisions for you should you become incapacitated. You can limit the type of decisions that your agent may make for you if you choose to do so. This document provides a place for you to list alternative agents should your original agent be unavailable or unable to act.

Your agent's authority becomes effective when your primary physician and one other qualified healthcare professional determine that you are unable to make your own healthcare decisions.

You can also use this form to designate a person to make your current healthcare decisions even though you are completely capable of making those decisions for yourself. Some persons prefer not to be involved in the decision-making process of their healthcare at any stage and designate another person to make current and future decisions for them by completing a **Power of Attorney or Surrogate for Healthcare**.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SIGN ANY FORM IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO DO SO.

If you do not sign a form or tell your doctor about whom you want to make your healthcare decisions (or if someone you identify is not reasonably available), a family member who is reasonably available may act. Family members are selected to act in your behalf in descending order: Spouse, significant other, adult-child, parent, adult brother or sister, grandparent, close friend.

Advance Directives (Living Will and Power of Attorney for Healthcare) allow you to make your own choices about medical decisions. Making decisions in advance will provide direction and perhaps comfort to family members or agents who may make significant choices on your behalf.

SOUTHWEST ENDOSCOPY PATIENT INFORMATION ON ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Southwest Endoscopy, Ltd. is required to report abuse, neglect and misappropriation of property to Adult Protective Services at 1-800-797-3260. Abuse, neglect, misappropriation of property and injuries of unknown sources will also be reported to the Department of Health Improvement within 24 hours at 1-800-752-8649 or 1-800-445-6542. Southwest Endoscopy, Ltd. will ensure that the reporter with direct knowledge of an incident has immediate access to the Department of Health Improvement (DHI) incident report form in order to allow the reporter to respond to, report and document incidents in a timely and accurate manner. Any consumer, employee, family member or legal guardian may report an incident either independently or through Southwest Endoscopy, Ltd. to the Division of Health Improvement by telephone call, written correspondence or other forms of communication utilizing the DHI incident report form. Southwest Endoscopy Ltd. shall report incidents utilizing the DHI incident report form, consistent with the requirements of the DHI incident management system guide and CMS regulations as applicable. The completed report will be submitted to DHI within 24 hours of an incident or allegation of an incident.