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EAST LIVERPOOL CITY HOSPITAL

PATIENT CARE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Advance Directive

PURPOSE: All patients have the right to make decisions regarding their health care, including the right to request or refuse life-sustaining treatment. An Advance Directive is a document intended to govern the kind of treatment that a competent person will receive if he or she becomes incompetent.

East Liverpool City Hospital acknowledges a patient's right to create an advance directive. An Advance Directive is defined as any type of written or oral instruction relating to the provision of health care when an adult patient becomes incapacitated.

Every patient admitted to East Liverpool City Hospital will be given the opportunity to create an Advanced Directive (i.e. Living Will, Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, DNR Protocol) or to provide us with a copy of a previous executed advance directive.

Patients will be provided with access to, assistance with, and information about the development of a written advance directive. The execution of an Advance Directive is strictly voluntary. The provision of care will not be contingent upon the presence of an Advance Directive.

East Liverpool City Hospital shall respect the right of the patient (or the patient's legally designated representative) to make any and all decisions affecting the care and treatment of the patient within the boundaries of established in the state of Ohio and Federal laws and regulations.

PROCEDURE: 1. All patients will receive a copy of "You Have the Right" and the East Liverpool City Hospital Board of Trustees' letter summarizing the Hospital Policy on Advance Directives.

2. East Liverpool City Hospital will honor four types of Advance Directives:

1. Ohio Living Will
2. Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare
3. Ohio DNR Protocol
4. Oral wishes of a patient, that are expressed by a competent patient in a clear convincing manner.

3. An attorney is **not** required to create and/or to witness the above advance directives, but each document has unique requirements concerning its being recognized as a legal document.
4. The opportunity to prepare advance directives while a patient is in East Liverpool City Hospital will be offered to all competent patients who are chronically or terminally ill or to those who request them.
5. An individual physician may refuse to honor a patient's Advance Directive if the request is contrary to the physician's moral or religious beliefs. The physician will assist the patient in obtaining a new physician if unable to comply with a patient's wishes.
6. Advance Directives can be changed by any competent patient at any time.
7. During the initial assessment patients will be asked to express their preference about health care and treatment. Documented Advance Directives are a method to express their preference about health care and treatment. The acknowledgement of an Advance Directive information form will be completed, signed and placed on the medical record.
8. If the patient is unable to understand the information or answer questions concerning advance directives, the registered nurse will request the information from the following individuals, if present, in the indicated order of priority:
 1. The patient's guardian.
 2. The patient's spouse.
 3. The patient's adult children.
 4. The patient's adult siblings.
 5. Any other relatives.
9. If a patient or family member indicate that an Advance Directive exists, East Liverpool City Hospital will request a copy of the document to be included in the medical record of the patient.
10. No discontinuation of life-support will be completed until a copy of the Advance Directive has been produced, or in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, Section 2133.08. Please refer to the patient care policy, Discontinuation of Life Support.

11. In the case of transfer, within or between facilities, the patient's Advance Directives must be communicated verbally, or in writing to the receiving caregivers.

12. Policies and guidelines cannot cover all possible situations, therefore, consideration by the ethics committee may also be helpful if questions regarding Advance Directives arise. Any concerns a patient, or his/her designated representative may have with the implementation of an Advance Directive may be referred to the East Liverpool City Hospital ethics committee.

13. While a patient is in the care of East Liverpool City Hospital, an Advance Directive sticker will be placed on the outside of the patient's medical chart and completed according to the patient's current Advance Directive status.

President, Medical Staff

President & Chief Executive
Officer

Vice-president, Patient Care

Bioethics Chairman

Bioethics Co-chairman

Date

AS/kb

References: Ohio Legal Rights - Advance Directives for Health Care in Ohio, 1998.

Ohio Administrative Code - 5101:3-3-162, Advance Directives for Nursing Facilities.