

EAST LIVERPOOL CITY HOSPITAL  
PATIENT CARE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

- SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Life Support Under an Advance Directive or Ohio Revised Code Section 2133.08.
- PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for discontinuation of Life Support Care for Adult Patients.
- PROCEDURE: A member of the Bioethics Team will be consulted to complete a review of documentation prior to the withdrawal of any Life Sustaining treatment. Under no circumstances shall comfort care be withdrawn or withheld from any patient.
1. Power of Attorney for Healthcare (POA/HC):  
Life-Sustaining Treatment may be terminated or will not be instituted for patients in a permanently unconscious state or in terminal condition when requested by an attorney-in-fact under POA/HC valid in Ohio pursuant to procedures contained in the Ohio Revised Code.
  2. Declaration (Living Will):  
Life Sustaining Treatment may be withdrawn from or withheld from a patient with a valid Declaration who is in a permanently unconscious state or in a terminal condition only if consistent with the terms of such declaration and only in accordance with the procedures contained in the Ohio Revised Code for such withdrawal or withholding of life sustaining treatment; except that nutrition and hydration shall not be withdrawn once such procedures have been instituted and shall not be withheld from a patient in a terminal condition as long as such nutrition and hydration constitutes comfort care.
  3. For patients without Declarations or POA/HC:
    - A. Life-Sustaining treatment may be withdrawn or withheld from a patient who is in a terminal condition or who is in a permanently unconscious state who does not have either a Declaration or a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care upon the request of the person(s) named in Ohio Revised Code Section 2133.08(B) if the patient meets the criteria set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 2133.08 and all procedures required by Ohio Revised Code Section 2133.08 are complied with prior to the withdrawal or withholding of care.

- B. According to Ohio Law in the absence of a Living Will and/or a POA/HC Life Sustaining Treatments may be withdrawn following a 48 hour period. The Form "Request to Withdraw Life Sustaining Treatment" must be completed following the written documentation of two Physicians.

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President, Medical Staff

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President & Chief Executive  
Officer

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Vice President Patient Care

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Bioethics Chairman

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Bioethics Co-Chairman

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Date

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References: Ohio Revised Code, Section 2133.08.

Ohio Legal Rights Advance Directives for Health Care in Ohio, 1998