
When completed, who should have a copy of these forms?

- Your primary care doctor
- Your hospital
- Your long term care provider
- Your healthcare agent
- Your lawyer
- Any loved ones who need to know your wishes

Advance Healthcare Directive information and forms can be obtained from the Doylestown Health website (www.dh.org).

Your Guide to Advance Healthcare Decisions

*Medical decision making by the person
who knows you best . . . YOU*



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What is an advance healthcare directive?

Advance healthcare directives are spoken or written plans and information that you make about your choices for medical care. These plans let your healthcare providers, family members or other important people in your life know the choices you have made. In Pennsylvania, there are two kinds of advance healthcare directives: 1) living wills, and 2) healthcare powers of attorney.

Why I need an advance healthcare directive?

You have the right to accept or refuse care. Planning and writing your advance directive lets you control your healthcare at a time when you may not be able to make your wishes known. Doylestown Hospital will honor your advance directive except in rare circumstances involving pregnancy or futility of care.

When does my advance healthcare directive take effect?

When you are not able to make your own healthcare decisions, the person (agent) that you named will make those decisions for you. You may add or name a different person at any time.

What is a living will?

A living will is a written record of the health care you would choose for yourself. Your choices will be put into place if you are not able to make decisions. You can decide for yourself the acceptable quality of life you would like after knowing your options for treatment.

What is a healthcare power of attorney?

A healthcare power of attorney is a legal written record naming a person (agent) to act on your behalf. This person is able to make healthcare choices for you if and when you are unable to make those choices for yourself.

How do I make an advance healthcare directive?

Any time you tell someone your wishes about medical treatment, you are making an advance healthcare directive. To be sure your choices are clearly understood, it is best to have a written record. This record should be signed by you, dated and signed by two witnesses.

You may change your advance health care directive AT ANY TIME. It is a good idea to review your advance healthcare directive every year to make changes if needed.