



Policy: Advanced Directives

Linton Regional Medical Center will respect the rights of adult patients to make decisions about their care, to the extent permitted by law, consistent with reasonable medical practice. Each patient or their immediate family will be provided with information regarding Advanced Directives and the patient's right to make decisions concerning his/her medical care. This includes the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment and the right to formulate Advanced Directives.

Purpose:

Compliance with the Patient Self-Determination Act and North Dakota State Law

Equipment/Supplies Needed:

Advance Directive Information: "Five Wishes" packet.

Procedure:

- A. All patients 18 years of age or older who are admitted to Linton Regional Medical Center as Observation, Inpatient, or Swing-bed will receive Advanced Directives information provided from nurse upon request.
- B. The admitting nurse provides a verbal explanation of what is included in the written advance directive information to the patient. If more information is requested, the Care Coordinator will assist the patient with the "Five Wishes" packet.
- C. Patients are encouraged to ask any questions they may have once they have had a chance to read the information.
- D. If the patient is incapacitated at the time of admission and is unable to receive information or articulate whether he or she has executed an advance directive, advance directive information will be given to the patient's family or surrogate. Once the patient is no longer incapacitated or unable to receive such information it will be provided to the patient.
- E. At the time of admission, the charge nurse will document in the patient's medical record whether or not the patient has executed an advance directive.
- F. If the patient has a "living will" previously signed, it will be documented on the Nursing Assessment form in the patient's chart. The individual will be asked to provide a copy of it for hospital records if not previously done.



- G. The charge nurse will place a copy of the patient's "Advanced Directive" on the patient's chart. Additionally, the nurses will inform the patient's physician of written advanced directives and/or a patient's verbal request of the same.
- H. If patient chooses to complete a "Five Wishes" packet during admission, it will need to be signed by the patient and verified by a notary public or two witnesses. The notary public may be a Linton Regional Medical Center employee but witnesses cannot be Linton Regional Medical Center employees, follow packet instructions for witness criteria.
- I. Staff and community education will be provided on Advanced Directives. The education will minimally include what an advanced directive is with emphasis placed on the advance directive being designed to enhance an incapacitated patient's control over medical treatment and describe applicable state law concerning advance directives. This education is to take place a minimum of one time per year.
- J. If the hospital or medical provider is unable or unwilling to provide the directed health care due to conscience objection, the hospital will assist in transferring the patient to another health care provider willing to provide the care.
- K. Linton Regional Medical Center will not condition the provision of health care or otherwise discriminate against a patient based on whether an advance directive has been executed.
- L. Patient complaints concerning hospital noncompliance with advanced directive requirements may be directed to the North Dakota Department of Health, 600 E. Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505. Telephone number (701) 328-2372.