

Download A Physicians Guide To Advance Medical Directives

The WSMA offers advance directives—both the health care directive and the durable power of attorney for health care—to physicians and patients to help guide decision-making at the end of life. What kind of medical care would you want if you were too ill or hurt to express your wishes? Advance directives are legal documents that allow you to spell out your decisions about end-of-life care ahead of time. They give you a way to tell your wishes to family, friends, and health care professionals and to avoid confusion later on. Advance directives are designed to outline a person's wishes and preferences in regard to medical treatments and interventions. When a patient is incapable of making his/her own medical decisions, a health-care proxy can act on the patient's behalf to make decisions consistent with and based on the patient's stated will. We encourage all patients to complete an advance health care directive, which allows you to state your preferences for medical treatments and to select an agent or person to make your health care decisions in case you're unable to do so or if you want someone else to make decisions for you.