

**POLICY:     ADVANCE DIRECTIVES AND DO NOT RESUSITATE ORDERS**

**PROCEDURE:**

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 154, Advance Directives, a patient will be advised that any do not resuscitate requests will not be honored at the surgery center. If the patient requests this as part of their living will, the physician will discuss with the patient that the withholding of life-sustaining procedures requires two physicians, one of whom is attending physician, to have personally examined and certified in writing that the patient has a terminal condition or is in a persistent vegetative state. In order to certify the status of the patient to that extent, the patient would require examination by two physicians in a more acute setting than that of an ambulatory surgical center. Therefore, the physician could not, in good faith, comply with a document that does not enable resuscitation should the patient's medical condition in the ambulatory surgical center deteriorate.

In addition, Chapter 154, states that a "qualified patient" is one who has attained the age of 18 and to whom any of the following conditions applies:

1. The person has a terminal condition
2. The person has a medical condition such that, were the person to suffer cardiac or pulmonary failure, resuscitation would be unsuccessful in restoring cardiac or respiratory function or the person would experience repeated cardiac or pulmonary failure within a short period before death occurs.
3. The person has a medical condition such that, were the person to suffer cardiac or respiratory failure, resuscitation of that person would cause significant physical pain or harm that would outweigh the possibility that resuscitation would successfully restore cardiac or respiratory function for an indefinite period of time.

It is the expectation that patients who are provided care are suitable for an ambulatory care setting and, therefore, would not be considered a "qualified patient".

The patient has a right to be transferred to another physician or another facility if the patient disagrees and insists on having a "do not resuscitate" order executed at the surgery center. The patient would then be advised of the right and necessity to transfer.

For patients seeking more information or forms about a living will, durable power of attorney, and other end of life planning, the patients should be referred to the State Department of Health and Human Services website of <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives>. Form can also be downloaded and printed for the patient if the patient requests this.