



ADVANCE DIRECTIVE INFORMATION

Every adult may accept or refuse any medical treatment. The right to self-determination is relatively easy when a person is well and can speak. Unfortunately, during severe illness, people may be unconscious or otherwise unable to communicate their wishes.

Making decisions about care sometimes presents questions, conflicts, or other dilemmas for the clinical professionals and the patient, family, or other decision-makers. These dilemmas may arise around issues of admission, treatment, or discharge. They can be especially difficult to resolve when the issues involve, for example, withholding resuscitative service, or foregoing on withdrawing life-sustaining treatment. Dilemmas that do arise will be addressed with patient, family members, and caregivers as needed to assist with conflict resolution.

Federal laws provide a means by which you may make your wishes known regarding your health care decisions: The *Advance Directive* allows you to direct health care providers to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining procedures in the event you suffer from a terminal illness, are permanently unconscious, have advance progressive illness, or extraordinary suffering.

The appointment of a **Health Care Representative** allows you to designate a specific person to assume authority for making health care decisions on your behalf should you be unable to do so. You may also give specific instructions regarding any aspect of your health care.

In the absence of *Advance Directive* the Mid-Columbia Center for Living will offer you the treatment and help your physician feels is appropriate. The forms included are for the use of the adult who wishes to complete an *Advance Directive*. The existence of or lack of an *Advanced Directive* does not determine an individual's access to care, treatment, and services.

Advance Directive forms do not require the assistance of an attorney to complete. If you would like more information, a booklet titled [Making Healthcare Decisions](#) is available by calling Oregon Health Decisions at 1-800-422-4805, or by contacting Mid-Columbia Center for Living Referral Coordinators at 541-386-5452 ext. 3236, or 541-386-2620 ext. 2103.

Advance Directives relating to your care at Mid-Columbia Center for Living must be on file in your medical record in our Medical Records Department for us to adhere to your wishes.