

Information on Advance Directives

The following information explains what advance directives are and your associated rights. This information is being provided to you for reference only. It is not intended as legal advice.

If you have an advance directive already in place, then it is your or your Authorized Representative's responsibility to inform the Individual Provider(s) (IP) about those advance directive(s). If you change your advance directive then you must tell your IP right away. Please contact the CDWA team if you have an advance directive and want us to document this in our records.

What are advance directives?

- Advance directives are legally valid documents. They allow you to express your wishes about the kind of medical treatments you want. Some of these documents allow you to appoint a person you trust with the ability to make health care decisions on your behalf. There are two main types of advance directives: Living Wills and Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care.

What are my rights?

- You have the right to give written or verbal instructions about your health care. This includes the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, to the extent allowed by state law. You also have the right to appoint a person you trust to make medical decisions for you in the event you cannot make your own decisions. You are not required to make use of these rights.

What is the benefit of having an advance directive?

- If you become unable to make your own medical decisions, then those decisions will have to be made for you. If you have not given prior instructions, no one will know for sure what you want. An advance directive gives you the chance to explain your wishes ahead of time.

How can I ensure my advance directive is honored?

- Share copies and talk with loved ones, family, and others who will be involved in your care. Ask all your doctors to insert your advance directive into your medical records.

What is Consumer Direct Care Network Washington's policy on advance directives?

- When reported, CDWA will document if you have an advance directive in place. If you give us a copy of your advance directive, it will be maintained in your file. It is our policy to abide by the instructions in your advance directive to the extent of state and federal law. CDWA does not discriminate against any Client based on their choice concerning advance directives.