

# Advance Directives Policy

## **POLICY:**

The purpose of Advance Directives is to provide caregivers with the wishes of the patients in regards to continuance of medical care and end of life issues. Advance Directives are not addressed with patients eighteen years and under. Parents and guardians of a minor child will always be involved in the decision-making regarding the course of treatment for their child.

## **PROCEDURE:**

As an outpatient facility and due to the nature of services provided BRASS does not honor Advance Directives for patients while they are in this facility.

### A. Definition

1. Advance Directives are documents allowing patients to give direction about future medical care. There are two types:
  - a. Living Will-Written instructions explaining wishes regarding health care should the patient have a terminal condition.
  - b. Durable Power of Attorney-Written document naming a person to make decisions for the patient if patient becomes unable to do so.
2. Patients with advanced directives are responsible for informing the facility and their physicians.

### B. Procedure

1. During the pre-operative interview, the patient is questioned as to whether or not he/she has an advance directive. The appropriate yes/no box are checked on the Advance Directive Form. If patient has an advance directive the location of the document is noted. If the patient would like further information, the front desk has available information.
2. In the event of a patient transfer or transfer of medical records from this facility to another, a copy or the location of the advance directive should always be part of the record sent.