MASON CITY SURGERY CENTER ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

Purpose

Mason City Surgery Center (MCSC), in compliance with Federal law, adopts this policy to ensure all individuals understand their rights regarding legally valid decisions about their future medical treatment. The MCSC will provide the patient, patient's representative or surrogate with written and verbal notice of the MCSC's advance directive policy in advance of their procedure.

References

CMS Conditions of Coverage
416.50 Patients Rights

www.iowabar.org for information regarding advance directives such as Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions.

Policy

A. Definition: The term "advance directive" means a written instruction that is documented in advance of incapacitating illness. An advance directive states a patient's choices about healthcare treatment or names someone to make such choices, if the patient becomes unable to make these decisions. Through advance directives such as Living Wills and Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care Decisions, patients can make legally valid decisions about their future medical treatment.

B. Non-Discrimination: The provision of care at the Mason City Surgery Center will not be conditioned on whether or not the individual has executed an advance directive, and individuals will not be otherwise discriminated against based on an advance directive.

C. If desired the anesthesiologist will discuss the "Advance Directives" policy with the patient or authorized patient representative.

Procedure

A. Written notice will be provided to all adult patients, family members, or significant others outlining various advance directives available in Iowa. Written notice will be disseminated via the patient brochure. Verbal notice will occur during the preadmission phone call/interview. Information discussed or provided to the patient, patient's representative or surrogate will include:

1. The patient's right under Iowa law to execute an advance directive.

2. The right to receive information in order to make informed decisions about the patient's health status, diagnosis and prognosis.

3. The right to receive adequate information provided in a manner that assures that the patient, patient's representative or surrogate can effectively make informed decisions about care in the MCSC including the right to consent, to reject, and to withdraw consent for medical procedures.

4. As per the Iowa Life Sustaining Procedures Act, Iowa Code Chapter 144A.8 the MCSC will always attempt to resuscitate a patient and transfer that patient to an acute care facility in the event of deterioration (Statement of Limitation). The anesthesiologist will inform the patient of the policy. If provided, a copy of the patient's advanced directive documents will accompany the patient upon transfer.

5. As part of the pre-admission procedure, all adult (defined by Iowa law as those patients 18 years of age or older) patients will be asked if they have executed an advance directive (for example: Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions or Living Will).

6. Patients will be asked to furnish the most current copy of any executed advance directive for inclusion in their medical record.

7. The patient's Advance Directive status will be documented in a prominent place in the patient's current medical record (even if the patient forgets to bring copy of the Advance Directive document).

8. The advance directive shall become a permanent part of the medical record and be placed in a prominent place in the medical record. If the patient did not furnish a copy, the patient will be informed that their advance directive cannot be followed.

Medical Director **Date**

04/09, Reviewed 2/13; Revised 6/13