Advance Directive & End of Life Care

City-Wide Orientation

Revised: 11/2018
OBJECTIVES

• Define an advance directive
• Discuss the difference between hospice and palliative care
• Explain “end-of-life” care
Health Care Advance Directive

- **Health Care Advance Directive** – This is the generic term that is used for any document that give instructions about your health care. It can also appoint someone to make medical decisions for you if you cannot make decisions for yourself. There are two type of Health Care Advance Directives, Living Wills and Durable Power of Attorney are both the same.

Hospitals are required to ask every patient if they have an advance directive, or if they would like to have someone talk to them about putting one in place. All advance directive must be signed by a doctor. An advance directive is a document that provides instructions to the physician, health care agent, and family about your wishes.
Health Care Advance Directive

• **Living Will** – A document in which you state your wishes about life-sustaining medical treatment if you are terminally ill, permanently unconscious, or in the end-stage of a fatal illness.
Health Care Advance Directive

• **Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (or Health Care Proxy)** – A document in which you appoint someone else to make medical treatment decisions for you if you cannot make them for yourself. The person you name is called your agent, proxy, representative, or surrogate. You can also include instructions for decision-making.
Hospice & Palliative Care

• **Hospice Care** - Dying patients may choose hospice care. A holistic and philosophical approach to end of life care, hospice brings doctors, nurses, social workers and other professionals together as a care team. The hospice team’s goal is to make the patient as comfortable as possible during his or her final days. Hospice emphasizes pain control, symptom management, natural death, and quality of life to comfort the patient’s physical body.
Hospice & Palliative Care

- **Palliative Care** - Palliative care works to achieve one of the primary goals of healthcare—relief of symptoms. Palliative care is an option for patients who are seriously or terminally ill. It focuses on achieving the best possible quality of life for a patient by emphasizing total and comprehensive care for all a patient’s needs: pain and symptom management, spiritual, social, psychological, and emotional well being.
Hospice & Palliative Care

- Palliative care is similar to that of hospice care. However, palliative care is not restricted to patients near the end of life and can be used in both acute and long term care settings. One striking similarity between hospice and palliative care is the use of an interdisciplinary team of professionals including doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, chaplains, and others to provide comprehensive care.

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