



DEPARTMENT: Health Information Management

POLICY & PROCEDURE: Advance Directives

PURPOSE:

This policy is to provide an atmosphere of respect and caring to ensure that each patient's ability and right to participate in medical and mental health decision making is maximized. Additionally, to assure compliance with the Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA) in such a manner as to expand the patient, personnel, and community knowledge base regarding Advance Directives and the process by which patient participation in medical decision-making is carried out at Ocean Beach Hospital and Medical Clinics (OBHMC). WAC 246-320-141(k)

POLICY:

It is the policy of OBHMC to respect and encourage patient self-determination. Patients will be encouraged and assisted to be active participants in the decision-making process regarding their care through education, inquiry, and assistance as requested. Patients will be encouraged to communicate their desires in regard to Advance Directives to their patient representative, to allow guidance for health care provides in following the patient's wishes should the patient become incapacitated, rendering them unable to make decisions.

PROCEDURE:

An inquiry will be made by authorized staff members as to whether or not the patient has completed an Advance Directive. OBHMC will not discriminate against any individual based on whether or not the individual has executed an Advance Directive.

To the extent that the patient requests additional information or further explanation regarding the PSDA or Advance Directives, education pamphlet will be provided. It is recommended that follow-up education and interactions with the patient be documented in the medical record by the individual interacting with the patient regarding concerns surrounding Advance Directives.

A request of the patient or patient representative to provide a copy of the Advance Directive for medical record will be made.