

ADVANCED MEDICAL DIRECTIVES

An advance medical directive is a form that lets you plan ahead for the care you'd want if you could no longer express your wishes. This statement outlines the medical treatment you'd want or names the person you'd wish to make health care decisions for you.

Advance Directives protect your rights for medical care. All Louisiana Healthcare Connections adult members have a right to make Advance Directives for their healthcare decisions. This includes planning treatment before you need it.

How to Make an Advanced Directive

To make an Advance Directive, complete the "Louisiana Advance Health Care Directive Form." This form can be found on the DHH website at www.dhh.louisiana.gov. You can also call Member Services at 1-866-595-8133 for help in finding the form. Once complete, ask your doctor (Primary Care Provider) and/or provider to put the form in your file.

Together with your doctor (Primary Care Provider) or other provider, you can make decisions to set your mind at ease. It can help your health care providers understand your wishes about your health. An Advance Directive will not take away your right to make your own decisions and work only when you are unable to speak for yourself.

Examples of Advance Directives

A Living Will

- This form lets you list the care you want at the end of your life.
- A living will applies only if you won't live without medical treatment. It would apply if you had advanced cancer or a massive stroke.
- It takes effect only when you can no longer express your wishes yourself.

A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

- This form lets you name someone else to be your agent.
- This person can decide on treatment for you only when you can't speak for yourself.
- You do not need to be at the end of your life. He or she could speak for you if you were in a coma but were likely to recover.

A "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) Order

Louisiana Healthcare Connections will tell you about any changes to state law affecting Advance Directives. We will send you this information as soon as possible but no later than 90 days after the date of change. Ask your doctor or call Louisiana Healthcare Connections to find out more about Advance Directives.

To Report a Complaint

You should not be discriminated against for not having an Advance Directive. Please contact the DHH Office of Health Standards Unit at 1-225-342-0138 to file a complaint if your Advance Directive was not followed.