

Network Policy on Advance Directives- DNR/Treatment Preferences

The Network is committed to the principles of patient self-determination, autonomy and informed consent. To this end veteran's wishes regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the withholding or withdrawing of life sustaining treatments, and/or the designation of a Health Care Proxy or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care will be respected. Veterans are encouraged to discuss their treatment preferences with their physicians and other members of their treatment team during any point in their care. Should veterans be unable to make their preferences known, knowledge of their preferences is sought from their Next of Kin (NOK) or designated health care agent.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)

A veteran or surrogate decision-maker may direct that cardiopulmonary resuscitation not be performed should breathing or heart beat stop. A DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) order will be written by the physician and remain in effect until the veteran or surrogate decision-maker indicates a change is desired or the veteran is discharged. Should the veteran wish a DNR Order to continue in effect following discharge a New York State Non-Hospital DNR Order must be completed. A DNR order will not affect the quality of care or treatment a veteran receives.

Treatment Preferences

The veteran may also direct the physician to limit specific treatment preferences in advance of the time when the veteran may lack decisional capacity. These options include, but are not limited to: elective endotracheal intubation, mechanical ventilation, artificial nutrition, IV fluids, blood transfusions, and antibiotics.

Health Care Proxy

The Network recognizes all New York State Health Care Proxies and VHA Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care. Veterans may designate up to two persons to make health care decisions for them should they lack decision-making capacity in the future.

Advance Directive Note Titles and Documentation in CPRS

	Title	Format	Use
Establishing Advance Directives	Advance Directive	Electronic Progress Note	Use to record verbal statements by patient or NOK, attempts to ascertain advance directive wishes, declination to create advance directives.
	Advance Directive-Next Of Kin/Patient Data Form	Electronic Progress Note	Use to record the patient's Next of Kin contact information regardless whether a Health Care Proxy or Durable Power of Attorney has been named.
	Advance Directive-Health Care Proxy	Electronic Progress Note	Use if the patient has established a Health Care Proxy or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.
	Advance Directive - Education	Electronic Progress Note	Use when the patient has been provided education on understanding and/or creating an Advance Directive.
	Advance Directive-Living Will	Electronic Progress Note	Use when the patient has separate instructions for treatment preferences. Indicate that the document is in the chart and DO NOT attempt to summarize contents.
	VHA Advance Directive Form	Hardcopy Form	This is the official VHA Advance Directive form and is accepted by all VA sites and facilities.
	New York State Health Care Proxy and Living Will	Hardcopy Form	This is the New York State form. It allows the patient to indicate Organ Donation wishes as well as designation of a Health Care Proxy and Treatment preferences.
Implementing Advance Directives	Advance Directive-DNR/ Treatment Preferences (TP)	Electronic Progress Note	Use ONLY when implementing through a physician order a patient's advance directive instructions.
	Advance Directive-Revocation of DNR/ Treatment Preferences	Electronic Progress Note	Use if the patient has revoked or rescinded an existing physician order implementing DNR/Treatment Preferences.
	NYS Non-Hospital DNR Order	Hardcopy Form	This is the New York State form authorizing DNR Orders for outpatients. The attending physician MUST SIGN this document.
Ethics Consultation and Dispute Mediation	Ethics Note/Consultation	Electronic Progress Note	Use when responding to informal requests for review by Ethics Consultation Team or Ethicist.
	Cons Ethics	Electronic Progress Note	Use when responding to formal consult requests for review by Ethics Consultation Team or Ethicist.

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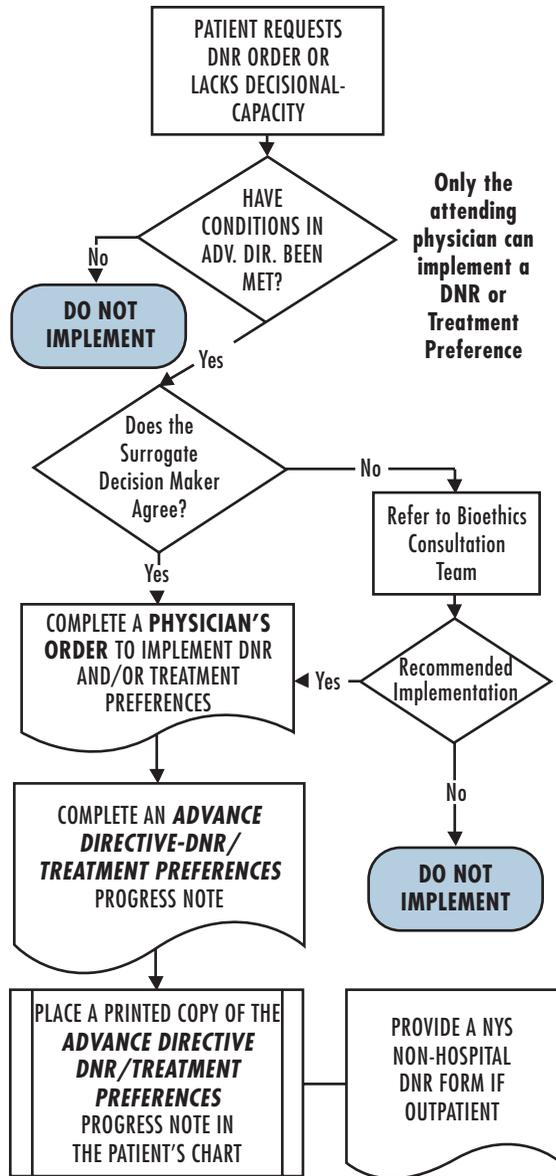
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IMPLEMENTING DNR/ TREATMENT PREFERENCES



INITIATING THE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE PROCESS

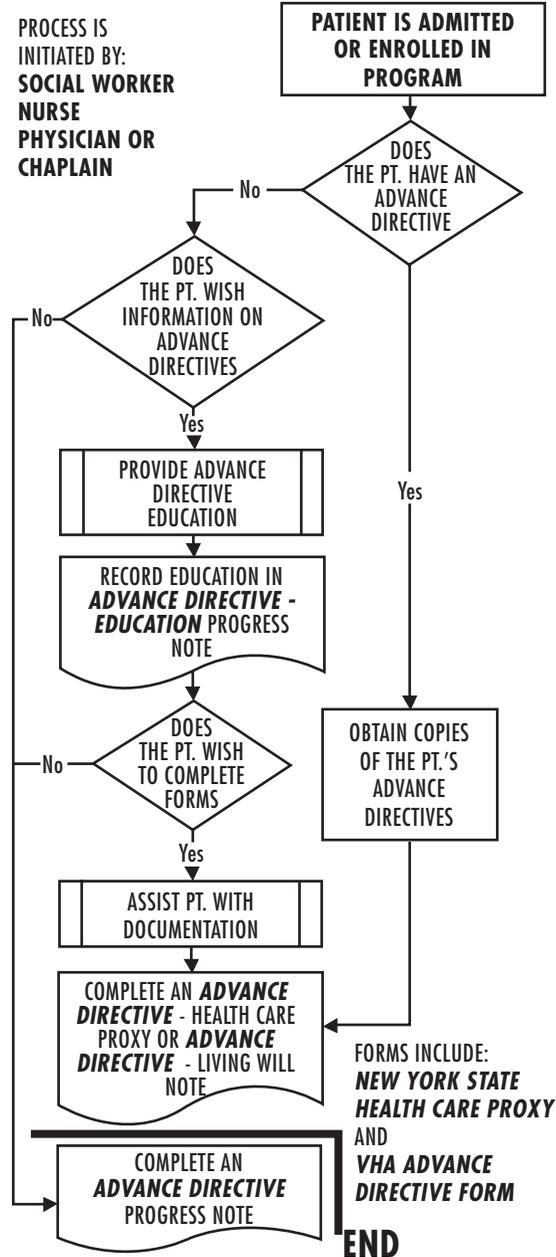


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In The 21st Century



Advance Directives

A Guide for Providers



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by the
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