**Policy**

It is the desire of this organization that each resident’s wishes concerning medical care, including his right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment and his right to formulate an advance directive in the form of a living will and/or durable power of attorney for health care is incorporated into his plan of care and followed.

**Procedure**

To ensure compliance with the requirement of the Ohio law and the Patient Self-Determination Act of 1990 regarding Advance Directives, the following steps will be taken.

1. All residents of this organization’s nursing homes and assisted living centers will be provided written information explaining:
2. Their health care decision making rights.
3. Advance directives and the resident’s right to obtain sufficient information to give informed consent or refusal.
4. What happens if the resident becomes incompetent without an advance directive;
5. The resident of the nursing home will be provided this information on Advance Directives at the time of admission. In addition, the information will be made available to all newly admitted residents in the assisted living.
6. Each community will document in the resident’s medical record whether he or she has executed an advance directive. A copy of the advance directive, if executed, will be scanned into the resident’s medical record. (Even if the advance directive does not fully comply with Ohio’s legislation, a copy should be placed in the medical record in order to document the resident’s previously articulated independent desires and attorney in fact preferences.)
7. At no time will a prospective resident be discriminated against due to the execution or non-execution of an advance directive. Execution of an advance directive will not be required as a condition of admission.
8. If the resident is incompetent or in an incapacitated state (as documented by the physician), the required information will be provided to family members, surrogates or other responsible persons. If the resident’s condition improves to where he is no longer in an incapacitated state, the community will provide him with the information at that time.
9. Residents must be assured that advance directives do not take precedence over any health care decision they or their representative might make in the future.
10. Residents must understand that advance directives take effect only at a possible future time at which they are unable to make their own health care decisions.