

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

Valmed Home Health and Pharmacy Solutions will honor, in accordance with the law, the patient's right to make decisions regarding treatment. This includes the right to consent to, refuse, or alter treatment plans. This also includes the right to have an Advance Directive which will govern if the patient should become incapacitated.

This is a brief explanation of the following forms:

1. Directive to Physicians/Living Will
2. Medical Power of Attorney
3. Out-of-Hospital DNR (for available upon request)
4. Declaration of Mental Health Treatment (form available upon request)

Directive to Physicians/Living Will			
What Is It?	Why Do I Need One?	What Do I Do?	Points to Remember
<p>A form that allows you to direct physicians to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment.</p> <p>An Advance Directive is used when you have an illness that is an irreversible or incurable condition.</p>	<p>An Advance Directive allows you to tell doctors and those close to you what you wish to be done should you need life-sustaining treatment. If you don't have an Advance Directive, doctors may use machines, such as respirators, to keep you alive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide for yourself what treatment you will and will not accept. • Talk with family, clergy, and/or friends. • Complete the form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can change your Advance Directive at <i>any</i> time for <i>any</i> reason. • Anyone 18 years or older can fill out an Advance Directive. Don't wait until you're sick. • An Advance Directive goes into effect only when you have a terminal or irreversible illness. • The Advance Directive pertains to health care decisions — not financial matters.

Medical Power of Attorney			
What Is It?	Why Do I Need One?	What Do I Do?	Points to Remember
<p>A form that allows you to directly appoint someone to make health care decisions for you if you are no longer able to make them for yourself.</p>	<p>So that someone you choose can speak for you when you cannot. If you have not named someone, a guardian may be appointed for you by the court.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose your Medical Power of Attorney. Discuss your health care requests with this person. • Complete the form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can change your Advance Directive at <i>any</i> time for <i>any</i> reason. • Anyone 18 years or older can choose a Medical Power of Attorney. Don't wait until your sick. • The person you choose makes decisions for you <i>only</i> if you cannot make decisions for yourself. • The Medical Power of Attorney pertains to health care decisions – not financial matters.

Out-of-Hospital Do-Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order			
What Is It?	Why Do I Need One?	What Do I Do?	Points to Remember
<p>A medical order by a doctor that allows a patient to refuse specific life-sustaining treatments outside the hospital.</p>	<p>An Out-of-Hospital DNR form or ID will tell health care providers <i>not</i> to use CPR and other life-sustaining techniques. If you do not have an Out-of-Hospital DNR Order, health care providers may do everything medically possible to revive you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your doctor for the Out-of-Hospital DNR Order. • Complete the form. Keep your original form. • Talk with family. Clergy, and/or friends. • You can also notify health care providers of your decision by wearing an approved ID necklace or bracelet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone can use an Out-of-Hospital DNR Order. • To show that you have an Out-of-Hospital DNR Order, you must have the original form or a copy of the completed form with you or wear an approved ID necklace or bracelet. • The Out-of-Hospital DNR Order pertains to health care decisions — not to financial matters.

Declaration for Mental Health Treatment

The declaration is considered to be an advance directive because it allows a competent person to proclaim their preference in advance for mental health treatment with psychoactive medications, electroconvulsive or convulsive treatments, or emergency medical care should the person be declared incapacitated.

The declaration may also supersede a Medical Power of Attorney if it is signed after the Medical Power of Attorney.

The declaration becomes effective when the person becomes incapacitated. Incapacity is determined by a court in a guardianship or medication hearing.

Valmed Home Health and Pharmacy Solutions maintains advance directive forms. Request the form from the office.

Signing these forms is OPTIONAL. If you and your family decide to exercise these rights, please make sure that a copy of each form is given to Valmed Home Health and Pharmacy Solutions so that we may be aware of your decision, and have a means to contact your agent if needed. Also, we recommend that copies be given to your physician, hospital, and any other health care provider you feel may need this information.