Advance Directives at PeaceHealth

PeaceHealth believes that life and death are a part of a sacred journey. PeaceHealth is committed to providing a full range of palliative care services, including medicines capable of relieving pain and suffering, and connecting a patient to hospice services options within and beyond the community. PeaceHealth also honors and encourages Advance Directives, legal documents that allow individuals to make decisions about their end-of-life care ahead of time. A patient’s decision to refrain from aggressive or curative treatment will be respected as requested, even when such a decision may result in a patient’s death.

Frequently asked questions about Advance Directives at PeaceHealth:

How do I submit an Advance Directive to PeaceHealth so that one is on file should the need arise to access information about my end-of-life care wishes?

- If you have an “active record” in the PeaceHealth computer system, we will scan your Advance Directive and attach it to your existing PeaceHealth medical record.
- If you have never been a patient at a PeaceHealth hospital or clinic, we will create a medical record for you in our system, scan your Advance Directive and attach it to your newly created PeaceHealth medical record.

If I submitted an Advance Directive to PeaceHealth prior to the health care system’s implementation of a new computer system on May 1, 2016, will it still be in my electronic medical record?

- Your Advance Directive didn’t move. It is accessible from PeaceHealth’s new electronic medical record, just as it was from the old system.

How can I verify that the Advance Directive I filed with PeaceHealth prior to the implementation of the new computer system is accessible to PeaceHealth physicians and staff?

- You may call (360)729-1300 or email ReleaseOfInfo@peacehealth.org to ask our team to look up your record and confirm that your Advance Directive is on file.

Can PeaceHealth physicians and staff access an Advance Directive for a non-PeaceHealth patient submitted to Medical Records prior to the new computer system implementation on May 1, 2016?

- Again, PeaceHealth’s new computer system did not change access to Advance Directives documents. This is true for patients and non-patients alike.

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Is it an option for a patient to send their Advance Directive to the hospital to be entered into their medical record, or to create a medical record for someone who has never been a patient?

- Yes. The caregivers who work in the Medical Records department will be happy to assist you. Simply mail your completed Advance Directive to:
  
  PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center  
  Attention: HIM  
  2901 Squalicum Parkway  
  Bellingham, WA 98225

Please include a brief note (a sticky note will do!) requesting that the document be scanned into your medical record, or that a medical record be created exclusively for your Advance Directive.

Alternatively, you are also welcome to fax it to 360-527-9383.

What if I change my mind about a previously filed Advanced Directive?

- You can always change your mind. Please submit your new Advanced Directive with a note stating that all previous documents are null and void.