
ADVANCE DIRECTIVE SUPPLEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE

PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE

By federal and state law, all patients have the right to determine what care they will receive and to appoint a *Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decisions* if for any reason they are unable to participate in decision making. The Commonwealth of Virginia's **ADVANCE DIRECTIVE SUPPLEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS** form provides written documentation of the patient's care preferences. The Advance Directive form consists of two parts:

1. **Special Powers of the Agent to Authorize Health Care Over Objection** – This section outlines specific instructions should the patient object to health care that the patient's agent and physician believe are necessary. The patient specifically chooses types of care that he or she authorizes and does not authorize to be provided over his or her objection. The patient's physician or licensed clinical psychologist **MUST** sign to indicate that the patient is currently capable of making such a determination.
2. **ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE INSTRUCTIONS** – In this section, the patient specifically requests that certain types of mental health care are provided or not provided, even if he or she does not have an agent. This section also allows for the patient to refer to a crisis plan if one has been developed.

REMEMBER:

- Both sections do not have to be completed to make the document valid. You may complete one or both sections.
- The document **MUST** be witnessed by two persons, but does not need to be notarized. You do not need an attorney to complete the document but may want to review it with one as appropriate to your situation.
- Make multiple copies. It is your responsibility to share them with your treating physicians. You should also share them with your (agent) Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decisions, and other family members and friends as appropriate. Bring a copy every time you are admitted to the hospital. Keep the mental health advance directive supplement with your general advance directive.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

The Registration Clerk can provide you with a copy of the Inova publication "Your Right to Decide" that includes more information on Advance Directives and Advance Directive forms.

If you need help completing the document, the Departments of Case Management, Patient Representatives, and Pastoral Care at all Inova hospitals will provide you with further help or referrals. Please call for an appointment.

Inova Alexandria Hospital

Case Management – 703-504-3580
Patient Relations – 703-504-3128

Inova Fairfax Hospital/Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children

Case Management – 703-776-3508
Patient Relations – 703-776-3663

Inova Fair Oaks Hospital

Case Management – 703-391-4772
Patient Relations – 703-391-3885

Inova Loudoun Hospital

Case Management – 703-858-8017
Pastoral Care – 703-858-8462

Inova Mt Vernon Hospital

Case Management – 703-664-7238
Pastoral Care – 703-664-7263

Other Resources - Local Bar Associations

- www.agingwithdignity.com
- www.midbio.org
- www.putitinwriting.org
- www.caringinfo.org/stateaddownload