



An Advance directive is a written instruction, such as a living will or durable power of attorney for healthcare, recognized under State law, relating to the provision of healthcare when the individual who has issued the directive is incapacitated.

The facility will provide the patient or the patient's representative, as appropriate the following in advance of the date of the procedure:

1. Information regarding the procedure to be performed along with signing of the consent for surgery.
2. A copy of patient Rights and Responsibilities.
3. Information on the center's policy on advance directives.
4. A description of the applicable State health and safety laws.
5. If requested, official State advance directive forms.
6. Information on the patient's right to make informed decisions regarding the patient's care.

Prior to the date of the patient's procedure Augusta Eye Surgery will provide the patient or, as appropriate, the patient's representative in advance of the day of the procedure, with information concerning its policies on advance directives, including a description of applicable State health and safety laws and, if requested, official State advance directive forms.

It is the policy of Augusta Eye Surgery to present advance directive information prior to the date of surgery unless:

- a.) A patient is referred to the ASC for surgery on the same date.
- b.) The referring physician indicates, in writing, that it is medically necessary for the patient to have the surgery on the same day, and that the surgery in an ASC setting is suitable for that patient.

Instances where a patient is unconscious or incapacitated and unable to make a decision, staff will consult the patient's advance directive, medical power of attorney, or patient representative, if any of these are available. In the advance directive or the medical power of attorney, the patient may provide guidance as to his or her wishes in certain situations, or may delegate decision-making to another individual as permitted by State law. If the patient has selected such an individual or if a person willing and able under applicable State law is available to make treatment decisions, relevant information should be provided to the representative so that informed healthcare decisions can be made for the patient. However, as soon as the patient can be informed of his or her rights, Augusta Eye Surgery staff will provide that information to the patient.

Documentation whether the patient has executed an advance directive will be recorded in a prominent place in the patient's medical record, each time the patient is admitted for a procedure at the center.

Augusta Eye Surgery will not withhold emergency care from any patient of the facility, despite the existence of an advance directive or the verbal instructions of the patient. If a patient with an advance directive in place requires transfer from Augusta Eye Surgery to a hospital, a copy of the advance directive, if available, will be sent to the receiving hospital with the patient's essential medical information.

The ASC will provide annual education to its staff concerning the facility's policies and procedures on advance directives.