

# ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FOR HEALTH CARE

The patient Self-Determination Act, a federal law and The Health Care Decision Act, a Maryland law provide that you have the right to make health care decisions in advance through a document called an "Advance Directive For Health Care".

There are two types of written directives regarding future health care decisions:

1. An **Advance Directive for Health Care** allows you to give health care instructions and appoint a health care agent to carry out these health care instructions should you become incapable of expressing your own wishes. You can make decisions about the future use of life-sustaining procedures in the event you have a terminal condition. If you are in a persistent vegetative state or if you have an end-stage condition.
2. A **Living Will** allows you to make decisions about life-sustaining procedures if, in the future, your death from a terminal condition is imminent despite the application of life-sustaining procedures or you are in a persistent vegetative state.

A Living Will will not allow you to make decisions about future life-sustaining procedures in the event you have an end-stage condition and your physician must obtain the consultation of another physician in order to honor your wishes.

In order to honor your wishes as set forth in your Advance Directive for Health Care or Living Will, a copy of the document must be placed on your medical record.

We encourage all patients to take an active role in directing the course of your medical treatment decisions. If you would like more information regarding an Advance Directive for Health Care, please contact the Salisbury Uro Surgical Center's Office Manager at 410-546-2133, Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM.