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ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

An advance directive is a legal document that allows the patient to make his or her wishes known before he or she is unable to do so. The Serenity Hospice Care team can guide the patient, family or primary caregiver through the process of completing the appropriate advance directive(s).

Three advance directives are available:

- **Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPOA-HC) Decisions** — The patient may designate another person to make medical decisions for him or her only when the patient is unable to do so. The patient may specify in writing his or her wishes regarding medical care. This document only covers medical care — not legal or financial decisions.
- **Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order** — The patient will die a natural death but will still receive appropriate comfort care. If the patient does not want to receive resuscitation, it is a good idea to keep a DNR order in the home.
- **Living Will** — This document takes effect when the patient is no longer able to make decisions regarding his or her health care. It applies only to questions of treatment related to a terminal condition.

Your Serenity Hospice Care team can answer your questions about advance directives.