

What should I do with my advance directive?

- Talk to your loved ones about your choices.
- Give a copy of your advance directive to your doctor, your patient advocate, and the hospital if you are a patient. The advance directive will become part of your medical record.

How long is my advance directive form active?

- A completed and signed advance directive is active until you decide to change it or cancel it.
- Once your advance directive has been entered into your medical record, it will be active until you ask for it to be removed or bring an updated copy.

An advance directive form can be found:

- On henryford.com/ADForm
- Through My Chart
- Request a copy at any Henry Ford Health hospital or clinic
- Request a copy at your doctor's office

Visit henryford.com/advancecareplanning for forms and information to help you get started with advance care planning.



Advance care planning



What would you do if...

- You were in an accident and unable to communicate?
- You were diagnosed with a serious illness such as cancer or Alzheimer's disease?
- You were in the hospital and unable to express your wishes?

Who will speak for you when can't?

Talk to your loved ones about the kind of health care you want if you become too sick to speak for yourself. Having this talk will relieve those closest to you from making tough choices or having to guess what you would want. Choose someone you trust to speak for you. Write your wishes down on an advance directive and durable power of attorney for healthcare form to make sure your wishes are respected when the time comes.

What is an advance directive and durable power of attorney for healthcare?

An advance directive is a form that allows you to write down the type of medical care that is most important to you and to name your patient advocate. You have the right to refuse care, life support, treatment, and services that you do not want. You can change your choices at any time. An advance directive is only used by the healthcare team when you can no longer speak for yourself. Until that time comes, you will make your own health care choices.

A durable power of attorney for healthcare (DPOA-HC) is a legally binding document that identifies the person that you select to be your patient advocate. A DPOA-HC is a part of your advance directive or may be a separate document. Your patient advocate will make medical decisions for you if you are too sick or unable to make them yourself.

Who should I ask to be my patient advocate?

Choose someone you trust to serve as your patient advocate. It should be an adult family member or friend at least 18 years old who knows you well and can communicate your wishes to the healthcare team. Be sure to talk to the person you would like as your Patient Advocate because they will need to agree to serve in that role.

What is needed for my advance directive to be complete?

The state of Michigan requires the following for your advance directive to be legally valid.

- The advance directive must:
 - Be in writing – advance directive form available
 - Be signed by you
 - List the name of your patient advocate
 - Include the signature of your patient advocate
 - Include two adult witness signatures who:
 - must be 18 years of age
 - see you sign the form
- Your witnesses cannot be:
 - family members
 - your doctor
 - employees of any hospital or other healthcare facility where you are a patient
 - your patient advocate
- Your advance directive does not have to be notarized

