



Advanced Medical Directives
Your Right to Decide and
Communicating Your Health Care Choices

Blue Ridge Medical Center supports your right to make decisions about your own medical care now and in the future. It is important that you clearly communicate your wishes regarding your care to your medical care provider so they can be considered for all aspects of your care at Blue Ridge Medical Center.

In 1990, Congress passed the **Patient Self-Determination Act** that requires health care facilities to tell patients and the community about their right to make decisions about their medical care. These rights include the right to accept or refuse care and the right to create Advance Medical Directives.

We never know when a serious illness will leave us incapable of making our own health care decisions. For peace of mind, it is important to think about and talk about your values and wishes for medical care with your loved ones and to put these wishes in writing.

An **Advance Medical Directive** is a written plan that expresses your decisions about your health care if you become unable to make your own health care decisions.

Concerning the ***Life Prolonging Treatment*** portion of your Advance Medical Directive, Blue Ridge Medical Center will stabilize you/the patient and transfer care to a hospital. A copy of your/the patient's Advance Medical Directive will accompany you/the patient.

Ask your medical provider for more information if you do not have an Advance Medical Directive on file with Blue Ridge Medical Center. Your provider or nurse can give you more information and help you complete the necessary documents.