

Patient Responsibilities

- Keep your original documents and notify of any changes. It is the patient's responsibility to keep the Advance Directive and ensure it is up-to-date



- Consider re-affirming to us on a regular basis in writing, that the Advance Directive is still valid (annually is recommended but is not essential)

- Ensure that your family and /or close friends are aware of the Directive.

What the Practice Will Not Do

- Remind you to review or update your directive.

- Monitor your treatment elsewhere (other than supply a copy of your Directive on request)

- Express views on the acceptability or legality of the Directive in the wide variety of potential future clinical circumstances, or treatments which may be needed.

- Be responsible for the provision of Advance Directive information to health providers where the Practice has not been involved in the care process (e.g. private clinics, temporary registration elsewhere etc)



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Last reviewed: July 2016

Advance Decision/Directive (Living Will)

Grove House Practice

Patient Information Leaflet



Advance Directives



Patients who wish to make their preferences known in advance about treatments which might occur in the future may present to the practice with a "Living Will".

This is also known as an Advance Directive or an Advance Decision (AD).

An Advance Directive may be made in respect of a condition which may arise in the future, or a present condition which may be expected to deteriorate. An Advance Directive is made by a competent person who may intend that the Advance Directive remains effective in the event that the patient themselves later become incompetent. In October 2007 the Mental Capacity Act 2005 took full effect formalising Directives relating to the withholding of life-sustaining treatment.

An Advance Directive need not always be written. However, to avoid any ambiguity or error at a later date, Grove House Practice asks patients to provide a written Advance Directive. It is a general principle of law and medical practice that all patients have the right to consent to, or to refuse treatment and Advance Directives are a means by which that right can be exercised.

This patient guide will explain how the Practice will deal with an Advance Directive and what your responsibilities are. It is not a legal guide, nor is the information provided necessarily complete or binding in all circumstances.

Practice Policy

- Advance Directives must be in writing.
- The Practice abides by the British Medical Association (BMA) and other legal guidelines for Advance Directives.
- Each request from a patient will be carefully considered by the patient's own GP.
- Appropriate advice will be offered relating to the consequences of the request.

The Practice generally supports the principle of patient choice in the provision of treatment and will take the Directive into account.

Registration of an Advance Directive

- Bring the original signed Advance Directive together with photographic identification containing a signature such as a driving licence or passport.
- Reception will offer you a 20 minute appointment with your GP to discuss the Directive. If you do not want an appointment the GP may still need to discuss the Directive with you and may contact you accordingly.
- Reception will take copies of the original Advance Directive and the ID while you wait.



What the Practice Will Do

Your GP will consider the clinical implications of your decision, bearing in mind your individual health situation to ensure that you fully understand the nature of your request. Your GP may ask you about your Advance Directive again in the future.



We will make copies of your documents. The originals will be returned to you along with a copy of this Patient Information Leaflet. Your medical records will be updated with an image of your documents and an alert placed on your record which will be seen each time your record is opened.

We will always consider the possibility that the patient may have changed his / her mind since signing the Advance Directive and take into account any indication or likelihood that this has occurred. Statements made a long time in advance of any treatment are not necessarily invalid, however the courts are more likely to accept a more recent, or recently reviewed statement.

We will provide details to other health professionals involved with your treatment as needed, e.g. where a hospital or other referral is necessary.