

What right do my family or friends have over my advance decision

None. It expresses your choice and is legally binding. Only a person appointed by a Personal Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney (after the advance decision is written) can make decisions on your behalf.

How does the doctor or nurses know I have an advance statement or decision?

YOU need to tell them. Give your G.P. and Hospice Community Nurse a copy for your medical notes and make sure if you are going into hospital that you take a copy.

What happens in an emergency?

If you are admitted to the Hospice as an emergency it is important that we are aware you have made an advance statement or decision. If we do not already have a copy one will need to be brought in so that we can act according to your wishes.

If you are taken into hospital as an emergency, the medical and nursing staff in A&E may not be aware of any advance statement or decision and will give you emergency treatment. If you do not want this you need to explain this to your family and GP so that they can take the appropriate action in an emergency.

Do I need a Solicitor to make an advance statement or decision?

No, but you may wish to.

Do advance statements and decisions need updating?

Yes, if your circumstances change or if not, every 6 months. If you do not want to change the document simple re-sign and date the document.

If you would like to discuss the issues raised in this leaflet please ask to speak to: -

Alison Vivian
Quality and Audit Lead

Or

Claire Delaney
Patient and Family Services Manager

Organisations that can give you more information include: -

The Patient Association
Tel: 0845 6084455
www.patients-association.com

Age Concern England
Tel: 0800009966
www.ageconcern.co.uk

Directgov
www.direct.gov.uk

Macmillan cancer support
0808 808 00 00
www.macmillan.org.uk

Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice



Advance Statements and Decisions

Formerly known as living wills



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The purpose of this leaflet is to answer frequently asked questions about Advanced Statements and Advanced Decisions to refuse treatment

What is an advanced statement?

It is a general statement of your wishes and views. It allows you to state preferences and indicate what treatment and care you would like to receive should you, in the future, be unable to make your wishes known. Health care professionals will take your statement into account when caring for you.

What is an advanced decision to refuse treatment?

It is an instruction, verbal or written, made by a patient about what medical treatment they would like to refuse in certain circumstances. It is of more value if it is written and should include as much detail as possible. Health care professionals have to take your instructions into account when caring for you.

There is also an advanced decision to refuse life-sustaining treatment. This has to be made in writing and witnessed.

When do advance statements and decisions become valid?

When people are unable to make a decision for themselves.

Are advance decisions to refuse treatment about euthanasia?

Euthanasia is illegal in the UK. An advance decision to refuse treatment is about you choosing to refuse treatment.

Do I have to make an advance statement or decision?

No, it is entirely your choice.

Do advance statements and decisions to refuse treatment have to be in writing and on special forms?

Statements - Do not have to be in writing, although it is always advisable. No special form is required. Phyllis Tuckwell has a 'Preferred Priorities of Care' form for you to use if you wish.

Advance decisions to refuse treatment – Do not have to be in writing, although it is always advisable. No special form is required. Phyllis Tuckwell has an advance decision form for you to use if you wish.

Advance decisions to refuse life-sustaining treatment – Must be made in writing, signed and witnessed. It must also contain a statement by you, expressing that you want the decision to apply even if your life is at risk.

Phyllis Tuckwell has an advance decision form for you to use if you wish.



In what sort of circumstances would people refuse treatment?

- People who have a long-term illness may refuse artificial feeding if they think it will prolong their life.
- Some people may prefer no treatment following a severe illness.
- Some people may refuse resuscitation.

These choices and decisions are personal to each of us and are best made in consultation with medical and nursing staff as well as family and friends.

What sort of treatments can I refuse?

- Artificial feeding (fed by a tube)
- Antibiotics
- Resuscitation
- Artificial ventilation

You cannot refuse 'reasonable nursing care' which is defined by law and includes food and drink by mouth and being kept clean and comfortable.

Can I demand a certain treatment to be used?

Advance statements and decisions cannot be used to insist on certain treatments.

Can I change my mind?

Yes, you can change your mind as long as you are clear and ensure that the doctor and staff involved in your care are all aware of any changes in your wishes.

Who should I talk to about my advance statement or decision?

You should try and discuss your thoughts and feelings about these decisions with your family and friends.

You may find this difficult. However, if you can explain your feelings and decisions in advance with the people who care for you they will then be aware of your wishes. It is equally important to talk to your doctor.