

# ESRD NETWORK 13

Serving Arkansas, Louisiana & Oklahoma Renal Communities



## Recommendation – ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

**RECOMMENDATION:** Each dialysis facility should develop policies and procedures specific to advance directives and document patient-specific advance directives accordingly. This recommendation requires that dialysis units be familiar with their state-specific laws on Advance Directives.

**Additional Planning Option: Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Directives:** Each Facility should develop policies and procedures specific to DNR. This recommendation requires that dialysis units be familiar with their state-specific laws on DNR.

**NETWORK 13 PERFORMANCE TARGET:** Written advance directives documentation on 100% of their patients' records with annual reviews and/or as requested by patient or patient representative.

### RATIONALE:

- Patient Self-Determination Act recognizes “An individual’s right under state law to make decisions concerning...medical care including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment and the right to formulate advance directives.”
  - Conditions of Coverage Subpart C—Patient Care § 494.70 Condition: Patients’ Rights Be informed about his or her right to execute advance directives, and the facility’s policy regarding advance directives
- Additional Planning Option: Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Directives**
- Dialysis units should enhance their respect of patients’ wishes not to be resuscitated in event of cardiac arrest during dialysis.
  - Dialysis unit might be legally liable if CPR is performed on patients who have valid DNR orders on file.

### AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

1. Advance directive forms for dialysis facilities ([www.caringinfo.org](http://www.caringinfo.org))
2. A state-specific resource for end-of-life issues, advance directive forms, disposition of the expired patient state regulations and laws ([www.healthlawyers.org](http://www.healthlawyers.org))
  - End-of-life issues
  - Advance directive forms
  - State regulations and laws on disposition of expired patient
3. Kidney End of Life Website ([www.kidneyeol.org](http://www.kidneyeol.org))
  - Funeral home information form
  - Valuables disposition form
  - Quick reference card for pronouncement of death
  - Ways to provide support to staff after patient deaths
  - Teach patients about CPR
4. Robert Wood Johnson ESRD Workgroup ([www.promotingexcellence.org/files/public/esrd\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.promotingexcellence.org/files/public/esrd_full_report.pdf))
  - Advance Preparation for Death
  - Advance Directive for DNR Order in Dialysis Unit
5. Profound and Difficult Issues of End of Life and Dying with Dignity ([www.humanehealthcare.com](http://www.humanehealthcare.com))

**REFERENCES:** Moss AH, Hozayen O, King K, Holley JL, Schmidt RJ: “Attitudes of Patients Toward Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in the Dialysis Unit.” *AJKD* 38:847-852, 2001

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*Mission Statement: “To assess and improve the quality of care provided to individuals with End Stage Renal Disease.”*