



DEFINITION LIST

PATIENTS' RIGHTS: Often addressed in terms of confidentiality and privacy, these rights are essentially the recognition that the patient is entitled to determine for him or herself the extent to which he or she will receive or forgo care and treatment.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE: Written instructions recognized under state law, such as living wills or durable powers of attorney for health care, that relate to the kind of health care the patient wishes to have or not have when incapacitated.

LIVING WILL: type of **Advance Directive**; document exercised while a patient is competent, that provides direction as to medical care in the event the patient becomes incapacitated or unable to make personal decisions.

CONSENT FOR TREATMENT: involves obtaining **Informed Consent** (the legal doctrine that requires the health care provider to disclose information to the patient about treatment options and risks so that the patient may knowledgeably consent to treatment), usually in the form of **Implied or Tacit Consent** (The patient's consent to receive diagnostic or therapeutic treatment or procedures without expressing verbal or written action by the patient) often existing in situations in which a patient voluntarily submits to a procedure with apparent knowledge of that procedure and the procedure presents slight or no apparent risk.

CONSENT FOR SURGERY: involves obtaining **Express Consent**, which is the verbal or written consent of a patient to receive diagnostic or therapeutic treatment or procedures.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTHCARE: type of **Advance Directive**; document that allows a competent patient to name someone else to make healthcare decisions in the event the patient becomes incapacitated or unable to make personal decisions.

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICE: The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires health care providers to issue a this notice to each patient. Informs the patient of the health care provider's duties concerning PHI and the patient's rights under HIPAA. The Privacy Rule requires the covered entity to post a complete copy of this in a clear and prominent location of its facility.

DISCLOSURE NOTICE: notice delivered to patient upon dissemination of patient's PHI (protected health information.)

DNR ORDERS: Do Not Resuscitate or "no-code" orders that essentially instruct the health care provider not to engage in extraordinary measures or otherwise attempt to revive those persons whose vital processes have ceased to function on their own.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM: document that permits the dissemination of confidential health information to third parties. Document that provides health care providers and institutions with the authority to disclose patient-specific information to persons not otherwise authorized to receive this information.

CERTIFICATE OF DESTRUCTION: document that shows what data and records were destroyed, who destroyed those data and records, and the method used for that destruction.

DISCLOSURE LOG: used to document the health care provider's accounting of disclosures of protected health information and attempts to obtain consent and the reasons that it was not obtained.

INCIDENT REPORT: the documentation of an adverse incident, whether done on a paper form or through a computerized database with access controls. It describes the incident itself, including the time, date, and place of occurrence, along with the condition of the subject of the incident, statements or observations of witnesses, and any responsive action taken.