



Advance Directive Policy

The Bergen-Passaic Cataract Surgery and Laser Center, Inc. does not administer general anesthesia. The State of New Jersey provides for an advance directives requirement only when general anesthesia is administered. However, under Medicare requirements, this facility must provide you the patient or, as appropriate, the patient's representative, in advance of the date of the procedure, with information concerning its policies on advance directives, including a description of applicable State health laws and, if requested, official State advance directive forms.

This facility's policy is to inform patients about State advance directives requirements, and when one is presented, to ensure that its terms are discussed by the patient, the patient's representatives when applicable, and the doctors involved in the patient's care. This will be discussed with you by your surgeon in advance of the surgery date. The surgeon will inform you that, because we cannot diagnose or identify prognoses beyond our surgical capabilities, we cannot honor the advance directive at this facility, and regardless of its provisions, in the unlikely event of an emergency, you will be resuscitated and transferred to a hospital.

This initial advance directive discussion will take place between you and your surgeon in the surgeon's office in advance of the date of surgery. Should you request advance directive information, it will be provided at that time.

Under New Jersey Law, treatment can be withheld or withdrawn in accordance with an Advance Directive. There is no specific form of Advance Directive that must be followed in New Jersey. You don't need a lawyer to prepare an Advance Directive. It can be as simple as a letter stating your health care wishes, or naming the person you trust to make health care decisions for you. There are many sources for information about Advance Directives. The New Jersey Commission on Legal and Ethical Problems in the Delivery of Health Care prepared a booklet that is available on-line at www.state.nj.us/health/ltc/advance_directives.pdf.