

by the following ways: (1) by completing a new ADHC; (2) by destroying the existing ADHC; (3) by writing a clear statement expressing your intent to revoke the ADHC; (4) by orally expressing your intent to change or revoke your ADHC in the presence of a witness 18 years of age or older who confirms this in writing within 30 days and once the treating physician documents it in your medical record; (5) marrying after executing an ADHC revokes any agent other than your spouse; and (6) divorcing or otherwise dissolving a marriage after the execution of an ADHC revokes the designation of your formal spouse as the health care agent.

If you do make changes to an advance directive, be sure to destroy all of the outdated copies and provide copies of the new version to your health care agent, if one has been appointed, your family, your physician and/or your attorney. If you wish to revoke an advance directive while receiving treatment at a hospital, just notify your primary physician or nurse.

Will an advance directive be honored in an emergency?

Usually it is impossible to determine the chances of survival in an emergency situation or to determine the outlook for recovery. After the initial emergency has passed, and depending on your condition, your advance directive may come into play if you are not able to express your wishes.

Is it difficult to stop a treatment once it has been started?

No, not if you have an ADHC and your instructions are clear. If your condition begins suddenly, it may take days or even weeks before the outlook for recovery is known. During this time, it is appropriate to use any treatments which might be beneficial. When the outlook for recovery is known, if your instructions indicate you would not want continued treatment under these circumstances, treatment can be stopped.

Is there a time limit on how long my advance directive is valid?

No, unless you provide alternative future dates or events, your ADHC will become effective at the time you sign it and will remain effective until your death (after you death to the extent authorized concerning anatomical gifts, autopsy, and final disposition of your remains). Your ADHC will survive disability, incapacity or incompetency.

Are there any limitations on carrying out the instructions in my directive if I am pregnant?

Yes, under Georgia law, generally any instructions, which would result in withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatments would not be honored once it is determined that a baby has developed enough to be able to survive, if delivered.

After I complete an advance directive, what do I do with it?

Copies of an ADHC should be given to people who might need

it, such as your health care agent, if one has been appointed, your family or close friends, your physician, or your minister. Finally, you should consider carrying a card in your wallet stating that you have signed an advance directive and where it can be located. In order for a hospital to honor your ADHC, you must provide a copy of the document to someone at the hospital – a physician, nurse, social worker, or chaplain – so a copy of it can be included in your medical record.

Can I be refused admission to a hospital if I do not have an advance directive?

No, federal law prohibits a hospital from refusing to admit a patient because he or she does not have an ADHC. However, as of December 1991, hospitals must ask adult inpatients if they have an ADHC, document their answers, and provide information on state laws and hospital policies about advance directives.

Does this hospital have a policy about advance directives?

Yes, it is the policy of this hospital to honor a patient's advance directive if it meets the requirements of state law. We also recognize and respect the right of patients to accept or reject offered medical or surgical treatment, to the extent permitted by law.

Where can I obtain an Advance Directive for Health Care?

You can obtain a copy of the Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care form and its instructions at no cost from:

University Hospital
Information Desk
1350 Walton Way
Augusta, GA 30901-2612
706-774-2197

Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services
2 Peachtree St. NW, Ste. 33.384
Atlanta, GA 30303-3142
1-866-552-4464

Website to download form: <https://aging.georgia.gov/documents/georgia-advance-directive-health-care>

An Attorney can also provide you an ADHC and help you understand it, complete it and properly execute it. You may also use other forms of advance directives for health care, if they comply with Georgia law and are properly executed. An ADHC must be in writing, signed by you, and attested and signed by two adult witnesses.

If you have any questions about the Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care form or need help reviewing the form, you may contact:

University Hospital
Chaplain Services
1350 Walton Way | Augusta, GA 30901-2629
706-774-2242

YOUR RIGHT TO DECIDE

Communicating Your Health Care Choices

It is the policy of University Hospital to honor in accordance with law each adult patient's right to make decisions regarding treatment, including the right to consent to, refuse or alter treatment plans and the right to formulate advance directives which will be honored if the patient becomes incapacitated. The U.S. Government requires hospitals to provide this information to every patient who is admitted to a hospital.



UNIVERSITY
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care Act recognizes your right to control all aspects of your personal care and medical treatment, including the right to insist upon medical treatment, decline medical treatment or direct that medical treatment be withdrawn. It also allows you to choose someone, an agent, to make these health care decisions on your behalf, if you are in a terminal condition or state of permanent unconsciousness. The will of the patient or the patient's designated health care agent, rather than the will of the health care provider, controls.

Georgia law allows you to sign an Advance Directive for Health Care so your directions will be followed, even if you become unable to communicate them to your health care provider.

What is an Advance Directive for Health Care (ADHC)? An ADHC is a written legal document, in which you (1) appoint a health care agent to make choices about medical treatment for you, and/or (2) make choices about medical treatment regarding withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures and/or the provision of nourishment or hydration if you are in a terminal condition or a state of permanent unconsciousness. The ADHC survives disability, incapacity or incompetency. (Since July 1, 2007, The ADHC has replaced the legal documents called the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will in Georgia).

What if I have a Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care? The Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care are no longer available as options for advance directives in Georgia. A Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care created before June 30, 2007 will remain valid unless revoked, but it would be a good idea for you to replace these with an ADHC. If you choose to complete an ADHC it will replace any Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care in effect prior to completing the ADHC.

Should I have an ADHC in multiple States? It is up to you whether or not you wish to hold advance directives in multiple states, but the advance directive signed at the latest date will control and may revoke the other advance directives.

Does South Carolina have an advance directive? South Carolina provides for two types of Advance Directives: (1) a Living Will and (2) a Health care Power of Attorney.

Will my Georgia advance directive be honored in another state? The law on honoring ADHC differs from state to state, so it is unclear whether a Georgia ADHC would be valid in a different state. Because an ADHC is an expression of your wishes about medical care, it will influence that care no matter where you are admitted.

Will Georgia honor an advance directive from another state? Georgia law states that when a document executed in another

state substantially complies with the Georgia ADHC, it will be treated as an ADHC that complies with Georgia Law.

What is a health care agent and am I required to appoint a health care agent in my ADHC? A health care agent is a person you may appoint to act on your behalf to make decisions related to consent, refusal or withdrawal of any type of health care and decisions related to autopsy, anatomical gifts, and final disposition of your body when you are unable or choose not to make health care decisions for yourself. A health care agent should make decisions that are consistent with your ADHC and in your best interests. You are not required to appoint a health care agent and may use an ADHC only to express your treatment preferences. A physician or health care provider who is directly involved in your health care may not serve as your health care agent. A health care agent may not delegate authority to make health care decisions on your behalf to another individual.

What powers does my health care agent have? Your health care agent will have the same power as you to make any health care decisions you could make. Your health care agent is authorized to (1) consent to, authorize, withdraw consent from, refuse, withhold, any and all types of medical care, treatment or procedures relating to your physical or mental health, (2) sign and deliver all health care related documents, (3) negotiate and enter into all health care related agreements and contracts, (4) accompany you in an ambulance, admit or discharge you from any health care facility, (5) visit and consult with you as necessary, (6) examine, copy and consent to disclosure of all your medical records deemed relevant, (7) If you choose, your health care agent may also consent to the anatomical gift of your body, in whole or part, an autopsy, and the final disposition of your remains.

How do I express my treatment preference and what are my options for treatment preferences for a terminal condition or state of permanent unconsciousness? In an ADHC you are able to communicate your treatment preference in advance if the following are met: (1) you are in a terminal condition or if you are in a state of permanent unconsciousness and (2) you can no longer communicate your treatment preference after reasonable and appropriate efforts have been made to communicate with you about your treatment preference. The law allows you to choose one of three different treatment preferences in advance: (1) Try to extend your life for as long as possible, using all medications, machines, or other medical procedures that in reasonable medical judgment could keep you alive. If you are unable to take nutrition or fluids by mouth, then you want to receive nutrition or fluids by tube or other medical means; or (2) Allow for my natural death to occur, you do not want any life-sustaining procedures, nutrition or fluids; or (3) You do not want any life-sustaining procedures except for the ones you specifically indicate in the form. You may also provide additional treatment preferences on the form.

What is a terminal condition? A terminal condition is an incurable or irreversible condition which would result in your death in a relatively short period of time.

What is a state of permanent unconsciousness? A state of permanent unconsciousness is an incurable or irreversible condition in which you are not aware of yourself or your environment and in which you are showing no behavioral response to your environment.

What is provision of nourishment or hydration? This means providing you nutrition or fluids by tube or other medical means.

What are life-sustaining procedures? Life-sustaining procedures are any medications, machines, or any other medical procedures which, when applied to you in a terminal condition or in a state of permanent unconsciousness, could in reasonable medical judgment keep you alive but cannot cure you and where, in the judgment of the attending physician and a second physician, your death will occur without such procedures or interventions. Life-sustaining procedures do not include the administration of medication to alleviate pain or the performance of any medical procedure deemed necessary to alleviate pain.

How is a terminal condition or state of permanent unconsciousness determined? Before any action can be taken to withdraw or withhold life sustaining procedures or withdraw or withhold nourishment or hydration to you while in a state of permanent unconsciousness or in a terminal condition, that condition must be certified in writing and made part of your medical record. The attending physician and one other physician must personally examine you and certify in writing, based upon your condition found during the course of their examination and in accordance with current accepted medical standards, that you do meet the criteria for terminal condition or state of permanent unconsciousness.

Is there anyone that cannot sign my advance directive as a witness? Individuals that cannot sign and witness your ADHC include (1) anyone that will financially benefit from your death; (2) your health care agent; or (3) anyone directly involved in your health care.

Are advance directives just for "senior citizens"? No. Any adult, 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor, who is of sound mind may execute an ADHC. A severe illness or serious accident can happen to a person at any age. If you have strong feelings about what choices you would want made in such a situation, you are encouraged to consider signing an advance directive.

Can an advance directive for health care be changed or revoked? An ADHC can be changed or revoked at any time