

# PALOUSE



Surgery Center

## *Patient self - determination act*

The Patient Self-determination Act is a federal law that requires hospitals to “provide written information” to adult patients concerning “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.” To help patients make these choices, Idaho law provides for advanced directives. This brochure outlines what advanced directives are and what Idaho statutes require.

### **– Advanced Directives –**

Advanced directives are papers that state a patient’s choices for treatment. This includes decisions like refusing treatment, being placed on life support, and stopping treatment at a point the patient chooses. It also includes requesting specific life sustaining treatments.

There are several kinds of advanced directives. The three that are most common are the living will; durable power of attorney for healthcare; and the POST (Physician Orders Scope of Treatment).

### **– The Living Will –**

A form that states that life sustaining procedures should be withheld or withdrawn. This only goes into effect when the patient can no longer make decisions. Medical procedures which are necessary to provide comfort or pain relief are not considered life-sustaining procedures. The Living Will must be signed and placed in the State registry.

**PHONE - 1.208.332.2814 WEB - [www.idsos.state.id.us](http://www.idsos.state.id.us).**

### **– The Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care –**

A form which allows a patient to assign another person to speak on their behalf when they are unable to do so in a Health Care situation.

Palouse Surgery Center, LLC will not discriminate against those patients who have or have not completed Advanced Directives.

The Patient Self-Determination Act requires that all adult patients be provided with written information concerning the right to formulate an Advanced Directive. All patients will be questioned as to the existence of an Advanced Directive and provided with information if they so desire.

For Advanced Directives to be effective, copies must be placed in the Medical Record upon admission. However, all Advanced Directives will be suspended while obtaining treatment at Palouse Surgery Center.

You may obtain specific Advance Direction forms from Palouse Surgery Center.

You can get further information or assistance with Advanced Directive forms from:

**AARP Idaho - 1.866.295.7284 WEB - [www.aarp.org/states/id/](http://www.aarp.org/states/id/)**

**A Better Way Coalition, Inc. WEB - [www.abetterwaycoalition.org](http://www.abetterwaycoalition.org)**