

SPEAK UP

You Are In Control of Your Healthcare

Speak up if you have questions or concerns, and if you don't understand, ask again. It's your body and you have a right to know.

Pay attention to the care you are receiving. Make sure you're getting the right treatments and medications by the right health care professionals.

Educate yourself about your diagnosis, the medical tests you are undergoing, and your treatment plan.

Ask a trusted family member or friend to be your advocate.

Know what medications you take and why you take them. Medication errors are the most common health care errors.

Use a hospital, clinic, surgery center, or other type of health care organization that has undergone a rigorous on-site evaluation against established state-of-the-art quality and safety standards, such as that provided by Joint Commission.

Participate in all decisions about your treatment. You are the center of the healthcare team.

MAKING YOUR WISHES KNOWN

- **Advance Directives** are documents that allow patients to give direction about future medical care. There are **two** types:
 1. **Living Will**: Written instructions explaining wishes regarding health care should the patient have a terminal condition.
 2. **Durable Power of Attorney**: Written document naming a person to make decisions for the patient if the patient becomes unable to do so.
- All patients are instructed to bring a copy of their Advance Directives the day of surgery. If a copy of your executed Advance Directive is provided, a copy will be placed on your chart in the event of a transfer to another facility.
- The Desoto Surgery Center will make available an Advance Directive brochure for Mississippi residents if requested. All other state residents can log onto www.caringinfo.org to learn more, as each state has different laws.
- The Desoto Surgery Center will attempt to honor your Advance Directive to the best of our ability. For reasons of conscience, Desoto Surgery Center will attempt to resuscitate and transfer you to a higher level of care any time there is deterioration in your health status.

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