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**SPINAL SURGERY
CRANIAL SURGERY
MICRONEUROSURGERY
SPINAL INSTRUMENTATION**

Advanced Directives / Advanced Care Plan

Patients have the right and desire to determine their personal health care choices. It is important, also, that patients make their wishes known to their health care providers. This is why the neurosurgeons of Neurosurgical Consultants, Inc. explain their recommended health care treatments; and, in keeping with current practices, ask the patients to sign a consent form for any procedure before it is performed.

Sometimes the situation changes unexpectedly and patients are unable to make decisions regarding their personal health care. Therefore it is always recommended that everyone designate a surrogate (relative or friend) to make decisions, if unable to do so for himself / herself. Sometimes the surrogate is known as the "Health Care Proxy" or "Power of Attorney," etc.

It is equally important that the surrogate be aware of the individual's wishes in a situation in which the person is unable to make his / her own decisions. The document that outlines these wishes is known as "Advanced Directives" or "Advance Care Plan."

It is important that your physicians know if you have made your wishes known and to whom. We would like to know if you have Advanced Directives and who you selected as your surrogate so that we can follow your wishes. We are now encouraged to ask our patients for this information. You are not required to have made these advanced decisions and you are not required to share them with us. However, we believe it is in your best interest to do so.

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