

# Advance Directives Available

in North Carolina as of 12/2015

	NC Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPOA)	NC Advance Directive for a Natural Death (“Living Will”)	Five Wishes	DNR Order	NC Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST)	If no Advance Directive: Informed Consent
Limited to terminal illness and/or permanent unconscious states?	No	Yes	No	Limited to cardiac arrest.	No	No
Covers a broad range of situations?	Yes	No	Yes. But conditions should be specified.	No	Yes	Yes
Covers what you do and do not want?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No. Only allows EMS to withhold or withdraw resuscitative measures.	Yes	No
Witnesses required?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Notary required?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Is it a physician’s order?	No. It is an advance directive.	No. It is an advance directive.	No	Yes. Physician must sign.	Yes. Physician must sign.	No
<b>Advantages and Limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only invoked when a person is unable to make decisions.</li> <li>• Physician must review, consider clinical conditions, and then issue medical treatment orders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only invoked when a person is unable to make decisions.</li> <li>• Two physicians must review, consider clinical conditions, then issue medical treatment orders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs \$5 per form. \$1 per copy for orders of 25 or more.</li> <li>• 12 pages long.</li> <li>• Physician must review, consider clinical condition, then issue medical treatment orders.</li> <li>• It is not a legal document as defined by state law. However, if notarized and witnessed, it meets the legal requirement as an advance directive in NC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applies only when a patient is experiencing cardiac arrest.</li> <li>• Since it is a physician’s order, it can be followed by EMS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The form is available through a health care provider.</li> <li>• Must be reviewed if the patient’s treatment preferences change. Review is recommended when the patient is admitted and/or discharged from a health care facility; or when there is a substantial change in the patient’s health status.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority of proxy decision maker set by statute and is often unclear.</li> <li>• Physician should locate proxy, discuss with proxy, consider clinical condition, and then issue orders.</li> </ul>