

## **ADVANCED DIRECTIVES AND POWER OF ATTORNEY POLICY STATEMENT**

All patients have the right to participate in their own health care decisions and to make Advance Directives or to execute Powers of Attorney that authorize others to make decisions on their behalf based on the patient's expressed wishes when the patient is unable to make decisions or unable to communicate decisions. Cedar Valley Medical Specialists, PC (CVMS) respects and upholds those rights.

However, unlike in an acute care hospital setting, CVMS does not routinely perform "high risk" procedures in our clinics. While no surgery or procedure is without risk, the procedures performed in our clinics are considered minimum risk. You will discuss the specifics of your procedure with your provider who can answer your questions about the specific risks, benefits, and alternatives to your planned procedure or as well as your expected recovery and post-procedure care.

**Therefore, it is CVMS's policy, regardless of the contents of any Advance Directive or instructions from a health care surrogate or attorney-in-fact, that if an adverse event occurs during your treatment in our clinics, we will initiate resuscitative or other stabilizing measures and transfer you to an acute care hospital for further evaluation. At the acute care hospital further treatments or withdrawal of treatment measures will be ordered in accordance with your wishes, Advance Directive, or Health Care Power of Attorney. Your agreement with CVMS's policy will not revoke or invalidate any current Health Care Directive or Health Care Power of Attorney.**

CVMS encourages patients to discuss the sensitive issues raised by planning Advanced Directives and Powers of Attorney with their family or others involved in their healthcare. Patients have the right to change or revoke their advanced directives at any time. Should a patient wish to have their Advanced Directives or Powers of Attorney placed in their medical record, CVMS can do so. However, the above policy will still stand during an adverse event in one of our CVMS clinics or facilities.