Advance Directives ONLY go into effect in specific circumstances set out in the Advance Directive. It is a good idea to review your health care directives regularly and make any needed changes. Be sure to give a copy of your Advance Directive to your doctor or nurse. During your inpatient stay in the hospital and when properly notified, it is the policy of UH to honor your instructions as stated in your health care directive.

It is not difficult to prepare a written advance directive.
For more information contact:

**UH Truman Medical Center**
Social Work Services
816-404-3200
2301 Holmes Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

**UH Lakewood Medical Center**
Social Work Services
816-404-3200
7900 Lee’s Summit Road
Kansas City, MO 64139

**The Center for Practical Bioethics**
816-221-1100
www.practicalbioethics.org
An Advance Directive gives you the power

Under Federal and Missouri law, you have the right to accept or refuse medical care. You also have the right to decide in advance what medical treatments and procedures are provided to you. This could include the decision to refuse or withdraw life-sustaining treatments or the decision to withhold resuscitative services.

It is our policy to ensure healthcare professionals and designated representatives honor Advance Directive(s) within the limits of the law and University Health's mission, philosophy and capabilities.

An Advance Directive allows you to share your wishes about your future care with your doctor, caregivers, family and friends. If you would become seriously ill and were unable to make medical decisions for yourself, your Advance Directive would be used by your physician and family to guide your medical treatment. It is best to put your wishes in writing for your doctor and to discuss them with your family, clergy and loved ones.

Here are two ways you can tell others of your wishes for future health care treatment:
- Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Health Care Directive

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
This allows YOU to appoint another person (agent or attorney-in-fact) to carry out your wishes about your health care treatment or to make decisions regarding your health care if you cannot make them for yourself.

Health Care Directive
This allows YOU in advance to state your desires, wishes and directives regarding use or non-use of death-prolonging procedures if you are terminally ill and can no longer make health care decisions for yourself.

In the outpatient setting, problems that would negatively impact your health are not expected. If a negative, unexpected event takes place during your outpatient visit, and resuscitative measures are necessary, your advance directive will be honored if your attending physician is aware of the existence of your Advance Directive(s) and your wishes relating to resuscitative measures. It is important to share this information with your healthcare providers.

The Ambulatory Surgery Center and the Operating Room are settings that require specific conversations with your physician if you have an Advance Directive(s). In these settings, please let your health care provider know that you have an Advance Directive(s) and a discussion with your health care team will be scheduled.