

**CONSENT TO FORGO
LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT**

Consent-P
Consent to Forgo Life Sustaining Treatment



IDN13150265

Patient Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Medical Record #: _____

Place Patient Label

1. I hereby authorize Dr. _____ and such associates and assistants as may be selected by him/her and Rush University Medical Center to forgo life-sustaining treatment* on behalf of

(name of patient who has qualifying condition and lacks decisional capacity*)*

2. This direction is given by me as the patient's surrogate decision maker* and after consultation with the above-noted Attending Physician.

3. This direction conforms as closely as possible to what I know the patient would have done or intended and, to the extent that the patient's wishes are unknown, has been given on the basis of the patient's best interests. (See reverse side for factors which are to be considered by surrogate decision maker.)

4. To the best of my knowledge, the patient does not have an operative and unrevoked Living Will or an authorized agent under a Durable Power of Attorney.

DATE: _____

TIME: _____ A.M. / P.M.

Signature of Witness

Signature of Surrogate Decision Maker

Address

Telephone No.: () _____

() _____

Relationship to Patient

TELEPHONE CONSENT

Verbal authorization to forgo life-sustaining treatment* on behalf of

(name of patient who has qualifying condition and lacks decisional capacity*)*

was obtained from the surrogate decision maker* named below after consulting with the Attending Physician.

DATE: _____

TIME: _____ A.M. / P.M.

Signature of Attending Physician

Signature of Witness

Name of Surrogate Decision Maker

Address

Telephone No.: () _____

() _____

Relationship to Patient

Qualifying Conditions

“**Terminal condition**” means an illness or injury for which there is no reasonable prospect of cure or recovery, death is imminent, and the application of life-sustaining treatment would only prolong the dying process.

“**Permanent unconsciousness**” means a condition that, to a high degree of medical certainty, (i) will last permanently, without improvement, (ii) in which thought, sensation, purposeful action, social interaction, and awareness of self and environment are absent, and (iii) for which initiating or continuing life-sustaining treatment, in light of the patient’s medical condition provides only minimal medical benefit.

“**Incurable or irreversible condition**” means an illness or injury (i) for which there is no reasonable prospect of cure or recovery, (ii) that ultimately will cause the patient’s death even if life-sustaining treatment is initiated or continued, (iii) that imposes severe pain or otherwise imposes an inhumane burden on the patient, and (iv) for which initiating or continuing life-sustaining treatment, in light of the patient’s medical condition, provides only minimal medical benefit.

“**Decisional Capacity**” means the ability to understand and appreciate the nature and consequences of a decision regarding forgoing life-sustaining treatment and the ability to reach and communicate an informed decision in the matter as determined by the attending physician.

“**Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment**” means to withhold, withdraw, or terminate all or any portion of life-sustaining treatment with knowledge that the patient’s death is likely to result.

“**Life-Sustaining Treatment**” means any medical treatment, procedure, or intervention that in the judgment of the attending physician, when applied to a patient with a qualifying condition, would not be effective to remove the qualifying condition or would serve only to prolong the dying process. Those procedures can include, but are not limited to, assisted ventilation, renal dialysis, surgical procedures, blood transfusions, and the administration of drugs, antibiotics, and artificial nutrition and hydration.

“**Surrogate Decision Maker**” means an adult individual or individuals who (i) have decisional capacity, (ii) are available upon reasonable inquiry; (iii) are willing to make decisions regarding the forgoing of life-sustaining treatment on behalf of a patient who lacks decisional capacity and is diagnosed as suffering from a qualifying condition, and (iv) are identified by the attending physician in accordance with the provisions of this Act in the following order of priority: (1) the patient’s guardian of the person; (2) the patient’s spouse; (3) any adult son or daughter of the patient; (4) either parent of the patient; (5) any adult brother or sister of the patient; (6) any adult grandchild of the patient; (7) a close friend of the patient; (8) the patient’s guardian of the estate.

* * *

Factors To Be Considered By Surrogate Decision Maker:

In making a decision to forgo life-sustaining treatment, the surrogate shall weigh the burdens on the patient of initiating or continuing life-sustaining treatment against the benefits of that treatment.

The surrogate shall make a decision for an adult patient conforming as closely as possible to what the patient would have done or intended under the circumstances, taking into account evidence that includes, but is not limited to, the patient’s personal, philosophical, religious and moral beliefs and ethical values relative to the purpose of life, sickness, medical procedures, suffering, and death. Where possible, the surrogate shall determine how the patient would have weighed the burdens and benefits of initiating or continuing life-sustaining treatment against the burdens and benefits of that treatment.

If the adult patient’s wishes are unknown and remain unknown after reasonable efforts to discern them, or if the patient is a minor, the decision shall be made on the basis of the patient’s best interests as determined by the surrogate. In determining the patient’s best interests, the surrogate shall weigh the burdens on and benefits to the patient of initiating or continuing life-sustaining treatment against the burdens and benefits of that treatment and shall take into account any other information, including the view of family and friends that the surrogate believes the patient would have considered if able to act for herself or himself.