

Chapter:	Primary Care	Policy Number	PC0901
Policy title:	Living Wills (previously CM0901)		
Developed:	October 2009		
Revised:	February 2022		
Approved:	February 2022		
References:			
Policy references:			
Approved by:	Anka Brozic, Chief Executive Officer		

Living Wills (previously CM0901)

Policy

As part of routine care in an ongoing provider-client relationship, primary care providers are encouraged to discuss the importance of advanced care planning with their clients, and help their clients engage in such planning by providing necessary medical information and/or the opportunity for discussion. When clients become ill and as illness progresses, providers should ensure that the client’s advanced care directives and wishes are reassessed with the client or substitute decision-maker, and family (if there is consent), on an ongoing basis.

Through an advanced directive, a person can indicate the kinds of treatment(s) that he or she would accept, or reject should he or she become incapable.

Advanced care wishes need not be written and can be changed at any time. These wishes are to be interpreted by the person’s substitute decision-maker; they are not directions to a health care practitioner and do not constitute a consent or refusal of consent to treatment.

Clients of the Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre (the Health Centre) will be encouraged to have Living Wills and Advanced Care Directives. The Health Centre providers will endeavour to respect client wishes with regard to their Living Wills and Advanced Directives.

Procedures

- 1) The Health Centre will enquire about the existence of a Living Will/Advanced care directive during the client intake interview. The primary provider will continue to reassess the client’s wishes and instructions as necessary.
- 2) The provider will document the details of a Living Will/Advanced care Directive on the client record.
- 3) If a client enquires about Living Will/Advanced Care Directives, the provider will direct the client to the appropriate resources to assist in the creation of these documents