

Health Care Agency • Behavorial Health Services • CYS Quality, Review & Training

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What is an Advanced Health Care Directive and why is it important?

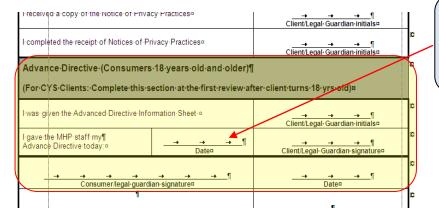
Advance care directives allow clients to provide instructions about their preferences regarding the care they would like to receive if they develop an illness or a life-threatening injury and are unable to express their preferences. Advance care directives can also designate someone the patient trusts to make decisions about medical care if the client becomes unable to make (or communicate) these decisions. This is called **designating "power of attorney** (for health care)."

Federal law requires hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions that **receive Medicare or Medicaid funds** to **provide written information** regarding advance care directives to all clients when they initiate treatment.

For more information see the California Attorney Generals website: http://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/adv hc dir

For all Mental Health Plan (County and contract) providers:

- Providers shall provide written information regarding Advance Directives to adult consumers when they have their first face-to-face service contact with the consumer and, thereafter, upon request from a consumer.
- Material provided shall be the <u>Advance Health Care Directives Information Sheet</u>.
- Provision of this material shall be documented in the initial progress note and on the Intake/Advisement checklist.
- For clients 18-years and older it is required that the "Advanced Directive Information sheet" presented during first initial contact following the 18th birthday and documented on Intake/Advisement Checklist.



When the client presents their advance directive the client's signature and date is required in this section of the Intake/Advisement form.

In the event an adult consumer presents a completed, appropriately witnessed and signed executed Advance Directive to staff members and/or contracted providers of the MHP, the Advance Directive shall be **placed in the consumer's mental health medical record** and the **presence of the Advance Directive shall be noted prominently** in the chart by putting a **red label stating "Advance Directive"** on the **front of the chart**.

CYS/QIPC has **Advanced Health Care information sheets** in **English**, **Farsi**, **Spanish**, **and Vietnamese** available on the <u>CYS QRT download</u> page.

Intake/Advisement Checklists in English, Farsi, Spanish, and Vietnamese are also available on CYS/QRT download page.