

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Advance Directives</b>
<b>Date of Origin:</b>	<b>12/01/2016</b>
<b>Current Effective Date:</b>	<b>2/16/2022</b>
<b>Scheduled Review Date:</b>	<b>2/16/2023</b>

## **I. ADVANCE DIRECTIVE POLICY**

This policy applies to all Managed Dental Care of Oregon (MDCO) employees and affiliates. MDCO’s position with respect to advance directives is based on communications from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

OHA has taken the view that it is left to each individual CCO to determine whether its contracted entities, including dental care organizations, have a policy on advanced directives. The OHA has further noted that the CCOs may base this decision upon the risk management of the CCO and the likelihood of a provider providing care under general anesthesia.

## **II. PURPOSE AND DEFINITION OF POLICY**

Purpose: The purpose of an advance directive is to ensure that adult patients—i.e., 18 years of age and older—are given the opportunity to participate in decisions that directly affect their health and wellbeing.

Definition of Advance Directive: An advance directive is a written instruction, such as a living will or durable power of attorney for health care, recognized under State law (whether statutory or as recognized by the courts of the State) relating to the provision of health care when the individual is incapacitated.

It is MDCO’s policy that any discussion regarding the need and/or value of an advance directive does not lie with the patient’s dental healthcare provider. Where a dental provider administers services under general anesthesia, the dentist shall inquire if the patient has an advance directive and will maintain a copy of the document in the patient’s file if they have one.

MDCO does not require that its dentists inquire whether a patient has an advance directive prior to undergoing dentistry procedures that do not require general anesthesia. However, MDCO does not preclude or in any way limit a dentist from initiating such a discussion with the patient, if the dentist, in his or her professional opinion, believes it is appropriate.

In cases where general anesthesia is administered under the supervision of an anesthesiologist within the dentist’s clinic, it shall be the responsibility of the anesthesiologist to engage the patient on the subject of an advance directive.

**III. REVISION ACTIVITY**

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<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Revision and Rationale</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
12/1/2016	Policy Developed	12/1/2016
10/18/2018	Review/Update	10/18/2018
12/30/2019	Review/Update	2/5/2020
03/23/2021	Review/Update	3/23/2021
2/16/2022	Review	2/16/2022

**IV. REFERENCES:**

Dissemination of Practice Guidelines Policy