

Case Management and Social Services Departments

While you are in the hospital we want you to be able to focus on your recovery process. Case Managers and Social Worker Professionals are available to help you both during your hospital stay and as you prepare for discharge. Case Managers are nurses who are assigned to each patient to assist with coordinating care processes, work with your insurance company, physicians, Social Worker, and the hospital staff to identify potential needs and/or resources available to help you in the post-discharge phase.

Social Work Professionals are available to assist you and your family with emotional, financial, personal safety, and resource needs. They will work with your health care team to plan for discharge and assist you and your family in making decisions related to visiting nurses, home health equipment, mobile meals, or placement in a nursing-care facility. Information regarding Medicare, Title XIX, community resources, financial support resources, environmental and/or personal safety concerns can be provided.

Case Managers and Social Work Professionals are part of your health care team and will be available to assist you during your hospital stay. You may request to see either your Case Manager or Social Work Professional by asking your primary care nurse to contact them or by calling the following:
Case Management: Ext. 4802
Social Work: Ext. 2063

Remember, you will not be back to 100% when you are discharged from the hospital. Many patients benefit from some support in the initial period following hospitalization. There are services available to support nursing care, therapy, and activities of daily living needs and these services may be covered by your insurance, Medicare, or Title XIX. The staff can provide you with a list of agencies available to meet your needs and help you arrange for services. Ask your physician, nurse, Case Manager, or Social Work Professional if you would like to explore options for services after discharge.

Advance Directives

Your Rights as a Patient

According to Iowa Law, every competent adult has the right to accept or refuse any medical procedure or treatment that may be indicated by a physician or other health care provider.

Some persons are not able to make their wishes known at the time the treatment or procedure is advised. These include after stroke, person is unconscious, after a time when the brain has been without oxygen, or a variety of other reasons. In the event that this would happen, Iowa Law makes provision for you to enact an Advance Directive which you could use to direct your medical care even though you may not be physically capable of communicating.

What Are Advance Directives?

Advance Directives are documents which advise your family and health care providers of your wishes and desires about the care you do or do not want if you are not able to direct your own care.

There are two forms of Advance Directives if you decide you want to make your wishes known in advance. Either of the Advance Directives may be revoked at any time, in any way. A revocation does not need to be in writing or verbal.

Living Will

A Living Will takes effect:

1. If you are terminally ill or, if you are in a permanent coma;
2. If your death is expected within a relatively short time;
3. If you cannot make your wishes known.

All three conditions must be met in order for a Living Will to be in effect. According to Iowa Law, food and liquids provided through tubes are considered to be medical procedures. They may be withheld or withdrawn, in the same way as other medical procedures.

The Living Will is a document between you and your physician. You are advised to discuss this with your family. You must make provide your physician, hospital, and/or nursing home with a copy, if you want it to be in effect.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

A “Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care” is a legal document which designates a person you have chosen to make decisions about your medical care if you are not able to. The requirement for a “Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care” to be in effect is that you are not able, to direct your own medical care. The person you have chosen “is empowered to make medical decisions for you. Your physician and health care providers are directed by the decisions of your “attorney in fact” as if they were talking with you.

UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital

UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital will honor each person’s wishes and desires about her/his health care. These wishes and desires must be known and must not conflict with applicable laws.

Therefore, hospital staff will ask **on each admission** whether or not a person has a valid Advance Directive. If so, a copy of the valid Advance Directive will be requested to include in the patient chart. A person who does not have an Advance Directive but would like more information, will be directed to a hospital social worker or the chaplain.

Respect For Life

Finley Hospital has a deep commitment to maintain and preserve life. If there is no Advance Directive, physicians and employees of The Finley Hospital will do everything possible to preserve life. This includes Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, artificial breathing machines, and any medications believed necessary to prolong life.

You

You are responsible to decide the extent and scope of care you want. There may be times when you cannot direct your own care. Examples of this include, but are not limited to;

1. Incapacity due to stroke which would leave you unable to communicate
2. Coma resulting from lack of oxygen, e.g., following a heart attack
3. Coma, e.g., resulting from end stage renal disease
4. Dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease or some other organic brain disease including
5. Any other illness or accident which would make you not able to communicate

You should think about this decision. You may wish to consult your family, trusted friends, an attorney or your clergy. It is easy to say, “I don’t want to

be kept alive by a machine.” However, you want to keep in mind that there may be a time when that machine could be the bridge to a longer, meaningful life.

Non-Discrimination

Finley Hospital will provide the best possible quality care to each person regardless of the presence or absence of an Advance Directive.

Organ Donation: The Gift of Life

Organ Donation for transplant purposes may be an end of life decision. Not everyone is a suitable donor nor is every organ appropriate for donation. For more information, call our Organ Donation Liaison Nurse, at (563) 589-2460.

Research

Someday, you or a family member may want to take part in a research study. If this happens, the information here may help you make the right decision.

What Is Research?

- Research is a study that is done to answer a question.
- Scientists do research because they don’t know for sure what works best to help you.
- Some other words that describe research are clinical trial, protocol, survey, or experiment.
- Research is not the same as treatment.

Why Is Research Important?

Research has led to important discoveries that make our lives better. Some examples are:

- New drugs to treat cancer, diabetes, and other diseases
- Ultrasound, X-ray machines, and diagnostic tests
- Vaccines
- Ways to stop smoking
- Improved medical procedures

Points to Consider

- A research study may or may not help you personally
- In the future, the results could help others who have a health problem
- Taking part in research is voluntary