

## Advanced Directives

An advance directive is a legal document that you can complete on your own that can help ensure your preferences for various medical treatments are followed if you become unable to make your own healthcare decisions. Your advance directive only goes into effect if your physician has evaluated you and determined that you are unable to understand your diagnosis, treatment options or the possible benefits and harms of the treatment options.

Advance directives help to ensure that your values and important wishes are carried out. Horizon Eye Care can provide you with information to prepare an advance directive or you can access information on New Jersey's Department of Health website at <http://www.nj.gov/health/advancedirective/>.

New Jersey has two kinds of advance directives, a "proxy directive" and an "instruction directive." It is your decision whether to have both kinds or to just have one of them.

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### **PROXY DIRECTIVE**

(Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare)

*A proxy directive is a document you use to appoint a person to make healthcare decisions for you in the event you become unable to make them yourself. This document goes into effect whether your inability to make healthcare decisions is temporary because of an accident or permanent because of a disease. The person that you appoint is known as your "healthcare representative" and they are responsible for making the same decisions you would have made under the circumstances. If they are unable to determine what you would want in a specific situation they are to base their decision on what they think is in your best interest.*

### **INSTRUCTION DIRECTIVE**

(Living Will)

*An instruction directive is a document you use to tell your physician and family about the kinds of situations you would want or not want to have life-sustaining treatment in the event you are unable to make your own healthcare decisions. You can also include a description of your beliefs, values, and general care and treatment preferences. This will guide your physician and family when they have to make healthcare decisions for you in situations not specifically covered by your advance directive.*

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The majority of procedures performed at the Horizon Eye Care Laser and Eye Surgery Center are considered to be of minimal risk. Of course, no surgery is without risk. You and your surgeon will have discussed the specifics of your procedure and the risks associated with your procedure, the expected recovery and the care after your surgery.

It is the policy of the Horizon Eye Care Laser and Eye Surgery Center, regardless of the contents of any advance directive or instructions from a health care surrogate or attorney in fact, that if an adverse event occurs during your treatment at the Surgery Center, the personnel at the Surgery Center will initiate resuscitative or other stabilizing measures and transfer you to an acute care hospital for further evaluation. At the acute care hospital further treatment or withdrawal of treatment measures already begun will be ordered in accordance with your wishes, advance directive, or health care power of attorney. If you already have an advanced directive bring it with you on the day of your procedure and should the need arise it will be sent with you to the acute care hospital to which you are transferred.