

## **POLICY**

### **Scott and White Health Plan**

#### **POLICY ON ADVANCE DIRECTIVES AND ACCEPTANCE OR REFUSAL OF TREATMENT**

It is the policy of Scott and White Health Plan to comply with the applicable state and federal law regarding advance directives and medical powers of attorney. It is also the policy of the Health plan to require its providers to comply with Texas law regarding informed consent and the patient's right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment. Because of these requirements and in order to honor the wishes of the member or member's legal representative regarding treatment and the withdrawal of withholding of life-sustaining procedures, it is the policy of the Health Plan to provide written information to all adult members, regarding: (1) their right to accept or refuse treatment; (2) their right to formulate advance directives; and (3) the written policies of the Health Plan respecting the implementation of such rights.

It is the policy of the Health Plan to require appropriate contracted providers to document in each adult member's medical records whether or not the member has executed an advance directive.

It is the policy of the Health Plan to require appropriate contracted providers to treat all members equally in the provision of care without regard as to whether or not the member has executed an advance directive.

It is the policy of the Health Plan to provide educational opportunities to its staff and the community on issues concerning advance directives.

It is the policy of the Health Plan to require appropriate contracted providers to comply with the Patient Self-Determination Act, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, P.L. 101-508, sec. 4206 and 4751, 104 stat. 1388, 1388-115, and 1388.204 (classified respectively at 42 U.S.C. 1395cc(f) and 1396(a) (1994)) and the Advance Directives Act, Texas Health and Safety Code §§ 166.01 et seq.

The above policy statements shall not be interpreted to supersede or obviate the provisions contained in the members' evidence of coverage, including the Schedule of Benefits.