

Help your clients' advance directives go with them anywhere

by Amy Warner, Esq., Rochester RHIO

As you prepare wills for your clients, they may want to know how they can ensure that their end-of-life health care wishes are followed. Even with a health care proxy on paper, doctors and other health care professionals often don't have access at the right times. The problem is that patients' advance directives and other health care information don't necessarily go where patients themselves go.

Earlier this year, the Rochester RHIO (Regional Health Information Organization) was the first RHIO in the nation to enable patients to upload their own advance directives to a regional health information exchange. The implications are wide-reaching. Online advance directives are easily accessible to health care professionals in emergency departments, specialists' offices, senior facilities and more. They are a critical component to patient-directed health care.

Through the Rochester RHIO patient portal (<https://patientportal.grrhio.org>), your clients can give consent to let doctors see their health care information, attach advance directives, and request an audit of the medical providers who have viewed their information through Rochester RHIO. To get started, all they need is a computer with access to websites and their personal e-mail account, and a PDF of their advance directives—a health care proxy and/or a living will.

Some attorneys may want to make this available in their offices. Once you or your office staff create a PDF of the advance directive, your client can use a computer to register with the Rochester RHIO and attach his or her document. Once it's on the RHIO patient portal, that critical advance directive truly goes everywhere your client goes.

Directions on uploading advance directives to the RHIO are available [here](#). It's a PDF that you may download and print for your clients in any quantity. If you have questions, please call me at 585-256-4671.