



March 23, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

Advance Directive Notification and Screening (ADNS) Template

1. What is the ADNS template? (see the screen shot below)

The ADNS template is a nationally developed CPRS template that can be used to document advance directive notification and screening. The template allows VA staff to document whether:

- the patient or representative was provided written notification about advance directives,
- the patient has an advance directive,
- the advance directive is on file, and
- the patient's advance directive contains information about mental health preferences.

The ADNS template replaces the "TXML" CPRS template that was previously available on the National Center for Ethics in Health Care's website. Use of the template supports facilities in meeting "[Meaningful Use](#)" requirements related to advance directives.

Reminder Dialog Template: ADVANCE DIRECTIVE NOTIFICATION AND SCREENING

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE NOTIFICATION AND SCREENING

HELP ME understand when advance directive notification and screening is needed and when assistance should be offered.

*Must select one

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE NOTIFICATION AND/OR SCREENING PERFORMED: Provide the patient or representative with information about advance directives and ask if the patient has an advance directive.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE NOTIFICATION: Provide the patient or representative with information about advance directives.

HELP ME understand the need to provide the patient with written notification about advance directives.

*Notification

I provided the patient or representative with written notification about advance directives.

I did not provide the patient or representative with written notification about advance directives because:

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE SCREENING: I asked if the patient has an advance directive, and determined that:

*Screening

The patient has an advance directive on file.

The patient has an advance directive that is NOT on file.

The patient does NOT have an advance directive.

The patient/representative does not know.

OPTIONAL - FOR CLINICIANS ONLY

OPTIONAL - MH Preferences

The patient's advance directive on file contains information about mental health treatment preferences.

The patient's advance directive on file does not contain information about mental health treatment preferences.

Visit Info Finish Cancel

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE NOTIFICATION AND SCREENING

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE NOTIFICATION:
ADVANCE DIRECTIVE SCREENING:

<No encounter information entered>

* Indicates a Required Field

2. How does the ADNS template support patient-centered care and the VA ICARE core values?

All adult patients who have decision-making capacity have the right to accept or refuse recommended medical or mental health treatments or procedures, regardless of the expected consequences. Advance directives, which are completed by patients with decision-making capacity, ensure that patient's preferences for future health care are documented so that they are known and honored if and when the patient loses decision-making capacity. Advance directives promote the [ICARE values](#), in particular Advocacy, by ensuring a patient centered process for identifying and documenting Veteran's preferences.

The advance directive notification and screening process notifies Veterans of their rights and gives them the opportunity to receive information about advance directives, complete advance directives and have their advance directives documented in the chart. The ADNS template is a tool for standardizing the advance directive notification and screening process and helping to ensure that patient's preferences for future health care are documented.

3. What progress note title is associated with the ADNS template?

As identified in [VHA Handbook 1004.02, *Advance Care Planning and Management of Advance Directives*](#), "VA has developed a national standardized note title, "Advance Directive Notification and Screening" that matches the requirements of this policy. It is recommended that facilities use this note title to document the notification and screening requirements of this Handbook. However use of this note title is not required" (paragraph 6, page 7). Facilities may determine locally which progress note title is associated with the ADNS template. Facilities may not, however, use the note title "Advance Directive," "Advance Directive Discussion," or "Rescinded Advance Directive" to document advance directive screening or notification.

4. Is advance directive notification and screening required by policy?

Yes. According to the Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA) of 1990 and VHA Handbook 1004.02, "All Patients and Community Living Center (CLC) residents must be asked whether they have an advance directive or a mental health advance directive" (Handbook 1004.02, paragraph 6, page 6) and "All patients must be given written notification stating their right to accept or decline medical treatment, to designate an HCA, and to document their treatment preferences in an advance directive."

5. Who can complete the ADNS template?

The advance directive notification and screening process may vary from facility to facility. Social workers, clerks and other staff who are appropriately trained may be involved in the advance directive notification and screening process. Talk with your co-workers and supervisor to determine if notification and screening is part of your role. Please note that the "OPTIONAL-MH Preferences" question can only be answered by a clinician. (Please see question #8 for additional information)

6. Are facilities required to use the ADNS template to document advance directive notification and screening?

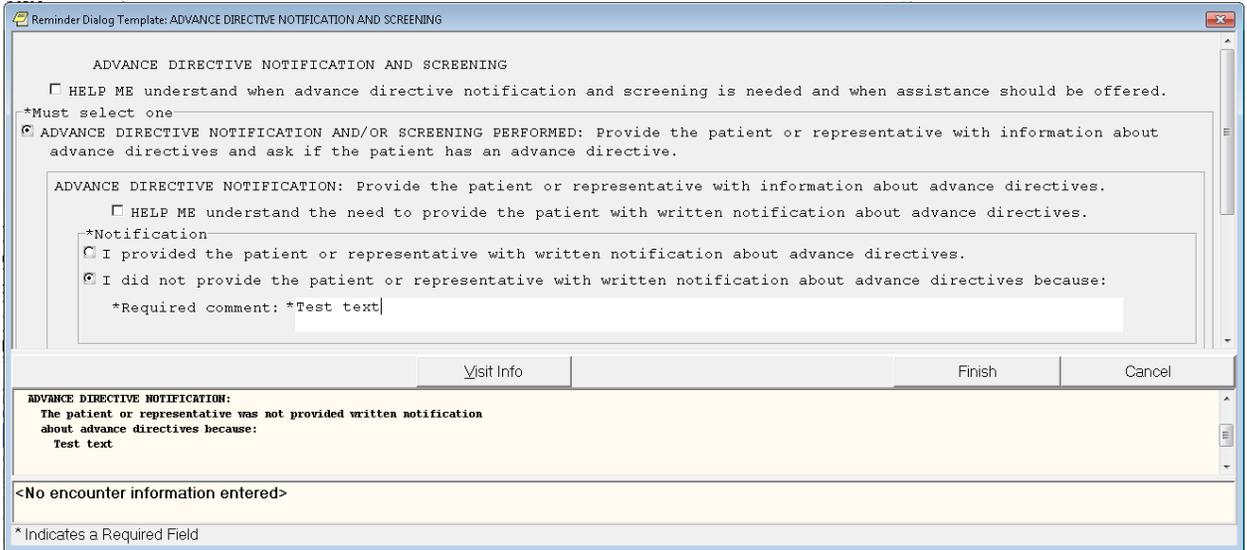
No. Although facilities are required to install the ADNS template, facilities are not required to use the ADNS template and can opt to use a locally developed process to document advance directive notification and screening.

It is important to note that there are two national, standardized health factors associated with the ADNS template that must be included in any advance directive notification and screening

process. The approved national health factors (“Advance Directive Yes” and “Advance Directive No”) must be used in your advance directive notification and screening processes.

7. What if I cannot perform advance directive notification and screening?

There may be circumstances when it is not possible to perform advance directive notification and screening, for example, if the patient is not conscious and no surrogate is available. The ADNS template allows staff to document that notification and screening could not be completed (see the screen shot below).



8. Why is the “OPTIONAL–MH Preferences” question included in the template?

The National Center for Ethics in Health Care has received inquiries from the field regarding documentation of mental health preferences. VA has one authorized advance directive, VA Form 10-0137, which can be used to document mental health preferences. The ADNS template allows for VA staff to more easily identify whether a patient’s advance directive includes mental health preferences. The “OPTIONAL–MH Preferences” question can only be completed by clinicians as only clinicians are appropriately trained to discuss this with patients. (See the screen shot below.) The documentation of whether a patient’s advance directive includes mental health preferences using this template will populate another new health factor, “Advance Directive- Mental Health Preferences- Yes” or “Advance Directive-Mental Health Preferences-No”.

Reminder Dialog Template: ADVANCE DIRECTIVE NOTIFICATION AND SCREENING

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE SCREENING: I asked if the patient has an advance directive, and determined that:

*Screening

The patient has an advance directive on file.

The patient or representative says the patient has an advance directive. It is on file in the patient's electronic health record. Inquired if they want more information or assistance in completing a new advance directive form, and directed them to that assistance, if desired.

Optional comment: _____

The patient has an advance directive that is NOT on file.

The patient does NOT have an advance directive.

The patient/representative does not know.

OPTIONAL - FOR CLINICIANS ONLY

OPTIONAL - MH Preferences

The patient's advance directive on file contains information about mental health treatment preferences.

Optional comment: test text.....| _____

The patient's advance directive on file does not contain information about mental health treatment preferences.

Visit Info Finish Cancel

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE SCREENING:
The patient or representative says the patient has an advance directive. It is on file in the patient's electronic health record. Inquired if they want more information or assistance in completing a new advance directive form, and directed them to that assistance, if desired.

The patient's advance directive on file contains information about mental health treatment preferences.
test text.....

Health Factors: ADVANCE DIRECTIVE YES, ADVANCE DIRECTIVE-MH PREFERENCES-YES

* Indicates a Required Field

9. Where can I find information on advance directives?

Information on advance directives, including VHA Handbook 1004.02, an FAQ document, VA Form 10-0137, information for patients and a copy of the ADNS template can be found on the National Center for Ethics in Health Care's website:

<http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/activities/policy.asp>.