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March 10, 2004

Dr. Joseph T. Barmakian  
P. O. Box 2789  
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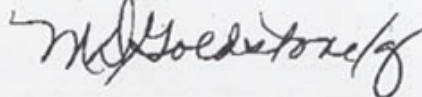
Via Fax to (908) 654-1919

Re: U. S. Living Will Registry

Dear Dr. Barmakian:

Enclosed please find correspondence received from Harold Bressler, General Counsel for JCAHO. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,



MARC D. GOLDSTONE

MDG/gkc  
enclosure



**Joint Commission**

*on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations*

*Setting the Standard for Quality in Health Care*

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**VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL**

March 9, 2004

Marc D. Goldstone, Esq.  
Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas LLP  
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New Brunswick, NJ 08903

**Re: Electronic Advance Directive Storage Systems**

Dear Mr. Goldstone:

I am responding to your letter asking about the application of Joint Commission standards to an accredited hospital which you suggest would have ... "in place a system which adequately and effectively makes available stored advance directives to hospital personnel..." if that system relies on an electronic advance directive record storage system.

As we have discussed, Joint Commission standards require that advance directives obtained by an accredited hospital be readily available to hospital personnel when needed. Furthermore, the records need to be secure. There is nothing in the standards that prohibits a hospital from using an electronic advance directive record storage system to meet these requirements. The electronic system would have to be a tool in accomplishing this overall standards compliance.

Our surveyors at a hospital could well ask a number of questions to ascertain any organization's approach to advance directives. With regard to an organization utilizing an electronic system, they might ask, among other questions, about backup protection during any electronic down time, the availability of computer terminals for access, and the number of individuals and the time coverage of those individuals who would have access to the electronic database.

**MAR 15 2003**

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**Member Organizations**  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Surgeons

American Dental Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Association

Marc D. Goldstone, Esq.  
March 9, 2004  
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I hope this is fully responsive to your inquiry. Please call if you have any questions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold J. Bressler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Harold J. Bressler  
General Counsel