

COMPARING MEDICAL DOCUMENTS

What are they and how are they different?

HIPAA

How HIPAA Works

The HIPAA Release allows your health care provider to share information only, not make medical decisions.

Things to Note

Only your designated person or persons will be allowed to obtain medical information. They may not make any medical decisions for you.

Effective

It is effective upon signing.

Duration

It remains valid until:

- the expiration date, or
- you revoke the document in writing.

Medical Power of Attorney (POA)

How Medical POA Works

The Medical Power of Attorney allows the designated person or persons to make health care decisions on your behalf should you become unable to make decisions for yourself.

Things to Note

The agent you appoint MAY consent, refuse to consent, or withdraw consent to medical treatment.

The agent MAY also make decisions to withdraw or withhold life-sustaining treatment.

Effective

Your agent's authority begins when your doctor certifies that you lack the capacity to make health care decisions. Unless you state otherwise, your agent has the same authority to make decisions about your health care as you would have had.

Duration

A Medical POA lasts until either:

- you can make your own medical decisions,
- You revoke (cancel) it,
- You make a new Medical POA and pick a different agent, or
- the Medical POA has an expiration date.

Contact our office for legal advice about the specific language that would best fit your needs.