



Information for
Health Care Providers

2026

The Nova Scotia Green Sleeve



www.nshealth.ca

The Nova Scotia **Green Sleeve**

What is a Nova Scotia Green Sleeve?

- A **Nova Scotia Green Sleeve** is a plastic folder used by patients to store their advance care planning documents.
- A Green Sleeve is the patient's personal property and is provided to the patient by a member of their health care team.

Who should have a Green Sleeve?

- **Any patient with advance care planning documents should have a Green Sleeve.** The contents will vary depending on each patient's needs and care planning.

What is advance care planning?

- Advance care planning is the process where a patient reflects on and documents what is important to them, to help them plan their future medical and personal care. This can include what is important to them culturally and spiritually.

- Examples of advance care planning documents that may be kept in a Green Sleeve include:
 - › Personal Directive
 - › *Patient-Centered Priorities and Goals of Care* form (Nova Scotia Health)
 - › Special Patient Program care plan (Emergency Health Services)
 - › *Expected Death at Home* form (Nova Scotia Health)

Why should these documents be kept in a Green Sleeve?

- A Green Sleeve will keep a patient's advance care planning documents protected, organized, and readily accessible to everyone in the circle of care across care settings and in the home. It ensures the most current paper copies are available to support informed, patient-centred clinical decisions.

What is my role as a health care provider?

1. Give a Green Sleeve to patients with advance care planning documents.
2. Advise patients to bring their Green Sleeve to all health care encounters, including primary care visits, hospital admissions, and Emergency Department visits.
3. Review and discuss the documents in a patient's Green Sleeve with them and their chosen family/substitute decision-maker before diagnostic tests or other interventions. If any documents are updated, place a copy in the patient's Green Sleeve. Remind the patient to bring their Green Sleeve home.
4. Advise patients to keep their Green Sleeve on their fridge at home. Emergency responders will look there in an emergency. Also request that patients show their Green Sleeve to health care providers who provide care in their home, including emergency responders.

Ordering instructions

- Nova Scotia Green Sleeves are produced and distributed by Nova Scotia Health. For ordering instructions specific to your location:
 - › Email: greensleeves@nshealth.ca

Resources

Personal Directives in Nova Scotia

- › <https://novascotia.ca/just/pda>

Goals of Care and Levels of Intervention

- › <https://library.nshealth.ca/GoalsOfCare>

Emergency Health Services Special Patient Program

- › <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ehs/public.asp>

Expected Death at Home

- › <https://library.nshealth.ca/EDAH>

Palliative Care

- › <https://library.nshealth.ca/PalliativeCare>

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find all patient education resources here:
www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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