MAKE YOUR WISHES KNOWN

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES:
Generally, an advance directive is a written document you prepare stating how you want medical decisions made if you lose the ability to make decisions for yourself. The two most commonly prepared advance directives are:
- a "Living Will"
- a "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care"

The value of an advance directive is that it allows you to state your choices for health care or to name someone to make those choices for you, if you become unable to make decisions about your medical treatment. In short, an advance directive ensures your right to accept or refuse medical care. You can say "yes" to treatment you want, or "no" to treatment you don't want. Talk to your family about your decisions.

ORGAN DONATION:
Organ donation saves thousands of lives. If you are interested in being an organ donor, do the following:
1) Say "yes" to organ donation on your driver's license.
2) Sign and carry a donor card.
3) Express your wishes to your family.

The most important thing you can do is to discuss organ donation with your family because the decision of your organ and tissue donation is ultimately made by your legal next-of-kin at the time of death.

For more information about advance directives or organ donation, stop by the ECU Student Health Service.

Q. Will signing a donor card affect the quality of medical care I receive?
A. Absolutely not. Medical care is always based on what is necessary to save a patient's life. Patients can be considered for donation only after they are declared legally dead.