

# Swiss Red Cross Patient Decree – ensuring that your wishes count.





## Why complete a patient decree?

Living means enjoying your freedom, being out there and taking the occasional risk, without always thinking about the worst possible scenario. Nevertheless, it's worth being well prepared just in case something happens. In the event of a serious illness or after an accident, it is possible that you will no longer be able to make decisions regarding medical treatment, inform persons who are close to you or take further precautions. With the Swiss Red Cross Patient Decree (SRC), you can clearly specify your wishes and preferences and ensure that your wishes are respected if and when you are no longer able to express them yourself. Depending on your personal circum-

stances, you can decide on the compact or full version of the SRC Patient Decree.

### **Make provisions – it's never too early!**

Relatives are relieved of a huge burden if, in the case of a serious illness or an accident, they know how they can best respect and carry out the wishes of the person close to them.

It is also very helpful for doctors to know what the person affected thinks about his or her illness, life and death. A Patient Decree makes it easier for them to make difficult decisions.

## SRC Patient Decree – the most important information at a glance

On request, the advisers at SRC will help you to set up your personal SRC Patient Decree.

The SRC Patient Decree gives you the opportunity to clearly specify your values and wishes to ensure that your wishes are respected if and when you are no longer able to express them yourself.

Your SRC Patient Decree will make it easier for members of your family and doctors to make difficult decisions.

Inform persons of your choice (authorised representative, general practitioner, children, etc.) of the existence of your SRC Patient Decree.

Always carry your personal ID with you indicating the existence of your SRC Patient Decree.

Your SRC Patient Decree is binding when dated and signed by hand. Check your SRC Patient Decree at least every two years or whenever your health situation or life circumstances change. Always confirm the update by adding the date and your signature.

Your SRC Patient Decree will not be used unless you are one day no longer able to express your wishes due to loss of decision-making capacity.

You can choose between a compact and a full version of the SRC Patient Decree.



**Would you like a consultation?  
Call us.  
Tel. 0800 99 88 44**

We will be pleased to support you during the process of setting up an SRC Patient Decree.



## The SRC Patient Decree – a comprehensive offer

### **Provision of advice**

Setting up an SRC Patient Decree involves many existential and ethical questions. It is easier to think about what may happen tomorrow when talking to someone. Don't hesitate to contact us. Our professional advisers have the necessary medical and nursing knowledge and can help you with the process of setting up your customised Patient Decree. They will clarify your wishes and preferences with you. The advisers are obliged to maintain professional secrecy.

### **Filing**

You can send us your completed, dated and signed SRC Patient Decree for filing. The document will be electronically recorded and filed at the SRC filing centre. The filing centre has the advantage that your SRC Patient Decree can be found quickly in an emergency and forwarded to the responsible medical personnel. This applies around the clock 365 days of the year.

Provision of advice and filing incur a charge.

### **Checking**

A specialist will check your SRC Patient Decree in terms of the content, formal validity and comprehensibility prior to filing. You will be contacted if modifications are necessary.

### **Personal identity card**

You will receive a personal ID card indicating the existence of your SRC Patient Decree. The card lists the telephone number of the filing centre from where your Patient Decree can be requested by authorised persons. Provide persons of your choice (authorised representative, general practitioner, children, etc.) with a copy of your SRC Patient Decree.

### **Updating**

You will periodically receive a reminder to update your SRC Patient Decree. You can modify or cancel it at any time irrespective of the reminder date.

### **Forwarding**

The Patient Decree will only be forwarded to authorised medical specialists. The SRC filing centre checks the identity of the person before it transmits the document. Confidentiality and data protection are assured.



## The SRC Patient Decree – the most important points

The SRC Patient Decree is a document which sets out in writing which medical treatment you wish to receive or refuse in the event of loss of decision-making capacity. The SRC Patient Decree has been compiled by specialists in medicine, law and ethics and meets the legally specified requirements. As a result of the new adult protection legislation which came into force at the beginning of 2013, doctors are obliged to clarify whether a Patient Decree exists in the event of loss of decision-making capacity. They are obliged to act in accordance with this decree.

Your SRC Patient Decree is binding when dated and signed by hand.

### **Content**

In the SRC Patient Decree, you determine relief from pain and other symptoms, food and fluid intake, other life-prolonging measures and resuscitation measures. As well as your preferences, you can also specify who is the person authorised to represent you and whether additional precautionary documents exist in written form.

### **Formal criteria**

The SRC Patient Decree must meet formal criteria: Surname, first name, date of birth, place of residence and social insurance number and/or AHV number must be listed. It must be easily legible. The SRC must be dated and signed by hand.

### **Validity**

The legal validity of the Patient Decree is not limited. However, it is recommended to check it on a regular basis and to adapt it to new circumstances. Update your SRC Patient Decree at least every two years or whenever your health situation or life circumstances change.

### **Person authorised to represent you**

In the SRC Patient Decree, you specify which persons you trust are to be involved in the decision-making process in the event that you are no longer able to make decisions.

**We will be pleased to advise you.**

**Swiss Red Cross**

Werkstrasse 18  
3084 Wabern

Telephone 0800 99 88 44 (free)  
Monday to Friday 8 am – 12 midday  
info@redcross.ch  
www.redcross.ch

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**Swiss Red Cross Patient Decree –**  
ensuring that your wishes count.

**Child care at home**  
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**SRC passage**  
Support for seriously ill and dying persons

**chili training**  
Strong in conflict

Find all the information at:  
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