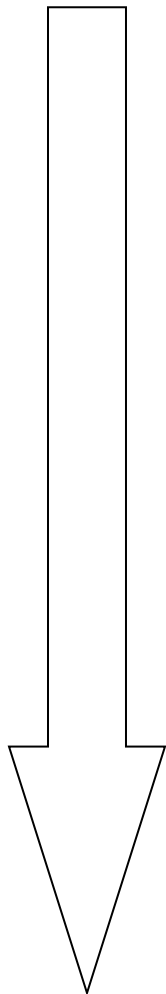


The Difference Between Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) and Proxy

- In PEI, every patient automatically has a substitute decision maker(s) SDM(s).
- SDM(s) are the person or person(s) who will make treatment and personal care decisions if the patient loses the capacity to make these decisions in the future.
- The hierarchy in the *Consent to Treatment and Health Care Directives Act* outlines the ranking of SDM(s) (see figure below).
- If the patient has a signed and dated Health Care Directive (HCD), the patient automatic SDM(s) is the patient's Proxy identified in the HCD.
- A Proxy is the person or person(s) appointed by the maker of a HCD to make decisions on his or her behalf and may include alternate(s) in the event that the person or person(s) appointed is unable to act (*Consent to Treatment and Health Care Directives Act*)

Substitute Decision Maker Hierarchy



- | |
|---|
| a. The Proxy (if the patient has a HCD) |
| b. The Guardian if having the authority to give or refuse consent to treatment |
| c. The Spouse |
| d. The Son or Daughter, or the Parent, or a person who has assumed parental authority and who is lawfully entitled to give or refuse consent to treatment on the patient's behalf |
| e. The Brother or Sister |
| f. A person whom the health practitioner considers to be the patient's trusted friend with close knowledge of the wishes |
| g. Any other relative |