

# A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM CHAYIM ARUCHIM

## לא תרצח • לא תעמוד על דם רעך

**There is only one Halachic Medical Directive** established by the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah and continues to be the only Halachic Medical Directive under the direction of this generation's Gedolei Torah. It is designed to provide a clear framework for observant Jews to ensure medical decisions in end-of-life care are made in accordance with Halacha. The directive also ensures that Halacha will govern health care decisions under the guidance of your Rav.

**This is available either by calling Chayim Aruchim 718-ARUCHIM (718-278-2446 ext 3) or downloading the directive by visiting Chayimaruchim.com**

**When the condition of the sick person deteriorates to the point where the doctors indicate not to continue treatment, it is obligatory for the family to ask a shailoh to a Rav as soon as possible to receive daas Torah at every step.**

**Do not allow testing for brain death.** It is imperative for the family to refuse and to prevent the doctors from doing any test whose purpose is to determine if there is still activity in the brain stem. This includes tests called the apnea test, nuclear scan, "doll's eye" test, etc. (This also includes another test where they put cold water into the patient's ear).

*Horav Dovid Feinstein  
Horav Tzvi Ausch*

*Horav Shmuel Kamenetzky  
Horav Binyomin Zev Landau*

*Horav Yitzchok Zilberstein  
Horav Dovid Bleich*

*Horav Chatzkel Roth  
Horav Shmuel Fuerst*

### Obligation Regarding the Treatment of a Patient Lacking Capacity.

Regarding a patient who lacks mental capacity, there are those who mistakenly claim that there is no obligation to provide the patient with the proper treatment necessary to save or sustain the patient's life. Therefore, we seek to clarify that, according to the Torah, there is an absolute obligation to treat a patient lacking capacity just as there is an obligation to treat a fully cognizant patient. Furthermore, it is an obligation to desecrate Shabbos for the rescue of such a patient, even if it is only to extend the life of the patient for a short time. Moreover, this also falls under the prohibition of "Do not stand idly by your fellow's blood", as explained in the Biur Halacha (*Siman 329*). It is a mitzvah to publicize this clear halachic ruling.

*Horav Shmuel Kamenetsky  
Horav Tzvi Ausch  
Horav Dovid Bleich  
Horav Shmuel Fuerst*

*Horav Yechezkel Roth  
Horav Shmuel Halevi Wosner  
Horav Yosef Sholom Elyashev*

*Horav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach  
Horav Ahron Leib Steinman  
Horav Chaim Kanievsky*

*Horav Yitzchok Tuvia Weiss  
Horav Yitzchok Zilberstein  
Horav Nissan Karelitz*

**When you call Chayim Aruchim, you will be getting a Psak that is guided by Gedolei Torah. By following their Psak, you can be assured that every decision is made Al Pi Halacha, ensuring that you uphold the sacred obligation to preserve life and that you are not transgressing Lo Sirtzach and Lo Saamod Al Dam Rayecha.**



**Chayim Aruchim** חיים ארוכים  
Center for Culturally Sensitive Health Advocacy & Counseling  
A PROJECT OF AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA

Chayim Aruchim Hotline: **718-ARUCHIM (278-2446)** • [www.ChayimAruchim.com](http://www.ChayimAruchim.com)

To view the Kol Koreh with signatures, go to [www.ChayimAruchim.com/Signatures](http://www.ChayimAruchim.com/Signatures)