Abstract
In the field of medical practice the principle of patient autonomy has assumed great importance as development of the constitutional rights of autonomy, freedom, and dignity of the human person. Advance Health Care Directives arise in this context as an important instrument for the realization of the will of the patient in any medical situations in which it is not able to express such a wish. The article provides a review of the literature in front of Advance Health Care directives, exposing its main international developments, the criticisms and benefits that have been identified around this figure, and making some considerations against the legal and material possibilities of application in Colombia.

Keywords
Advance Health Care Directives, patient autonomy, terminal illness, euthanasia.