

“YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE.”
WHO WILL SPEAK FOR YOU IF YOU CAN'T?

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING



Presentation Outline

- Definitions of advance directive and power of attorney for health care (POAHC)
- Importance of why adults aged 18 and older should complete a power of attorney for health care (POAHC)
- Selection of health care agent
- Options on next steps

Disclaimer

- This presentation is for educational purposes and does not constitute legal advice.

Definition of “release of information” (HIPAA)

- Separate form for each institution
- Receive verbal information
- Paying insurance does not include right to release of information

Definitions

- Advance Care Planning
- Advance Directive/Living Will
- Power of Attorney for Health Care (POAHC)
- Provider Order for Scope of Treatment (POST)
- Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)

Importance of why adults aged 18 and older should complete POAHC



Scenarios

- Accident
- Illness

Mythbusting

- POA (power of attorney) vs. DNR (do not resuscitate)
- Timing – acting now vs. waiting
- Not a one-and-done
- Only social workers and chaplains can witness at a healthcare setting

Reality without a POAHC-AD document

- No decision maker
- Guardianships
- Legal fees
- Possibility of longer hospital stay
- Choices may not be honored

Reality with a POAHC-AD document

- You have a voice, even when you can't speak
- Your choice about your medical decisions
- Reduces stress/guilt of making decisions in the moment
- Healthcare agent is your advocate, chosen by you

Selecting a healthcare agent

- Should be a person you trust to honor your decisions at a stressful time, even if they don't agree with them
- Can be family member or friend
- Can be changed at any time
- Need to be easily accessible, even if just by phone

When is POAHC activated?

- Incapacity determined by medical team of two providers
- May require more than one visit
- Medical providers can be at different facilities
- POAHC can be deactivated by one provider
- Activation can sometimes take time

Wisconsin vs. Other States

- Every state is different to some degree
- Wisconsin is stricter than MN and IA – get WI POAHC if getting care in WI
- Guardianships

Update your advance directive regularly

Advance care planning is an ongoing process. Review your advance directive when any of the 5 D's occur:

- Decade has gone by
- Dispute or death of a loved one
- Divorce
- Decline in health
- Diagnosis with a serious illness

Closing and next steps

- Make an appointment for follow-up
- VA has groups to get you started, ask questions
- Best to work with ACP facilitators

Contacts – please reach out to us!

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Questions?

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