Let’s Have A Conversation

Beaumont Health is pleased to announce our new advance care planning service. Advance care planning is an important part of planning for future health care decisions, especially in the event of an unexpected medical emergency.

Discussing your preferences is a part of good health care so your doctor and patient advocate can be guided by your known values.

As you consider your advance care plan, we know that the conversation and process may take some time. Your Respecting Choices at Beaumont facilitator can be with you every step of the way. We encourage you to learn more about this important topic.

RESPECTING CHOICES® AT BEAUMONT:
OUR PROMISES TO YOU

We will initiate the conversation.
We will provide assistance with advance care planning.
We will make sure plans are clear.
We will maintain and retrieve plans.
We will appropriately follow plans.

To speak with a certified facilitator, request an advance care planning speaker or learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact us at:

Phone: 947-522-1948
Email: respectingchoices@beaumont.org
Website: beaumont.org/respecting-choices

Upload your advance directive to your electronic health record through MyChart, fax: 947-522-0473 or email advancedirectivefax@beaumont.org
WHAT IS ADVANCE CARE PLANNING?

Advanced care planning is a process that begins with a conversation. Respecting Choices at Beaumont certified facilitators are available to guide you through the process. It involves sharing your values and beliefs with your chosen patient advocate and doctor. Successful completion results in an advance directive legal document.

WHAT IS AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE?

The advance directive is a legal document that describes your specific preferences for medical treatments in case you are unable to do this. Your advance directive, also called a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, will only be used if you become so sick or injured you cannot communicate your wishes yourself. The advance directive starts with listing a patient advocate to make decisions for you when you are no longer able and includes additional optional documentation regarding preferences for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), life support and organ donation.

Questions to Consider

- Have I let my family know what my wishes are?
- If I cannot communicate for myself, who should communicate for me?
- Do I want doctors and other health care providers to try some, but not all of the treatments?
- Does my family and friends know what living well means to me?
- Would I want CPR, IV nutrition and feeding tubes to help keep me alive, regardless of my physical or mental condition?

It may not be easy to complete an advance directive but millions of people have done it successfully and you can too.

Sharing Your Wishes and Choices

- Let your family and close friends know you have completed this document. Let them know who your patient advocate(s) are and what your health care wishes are.
- Take a copy of your advance directive with you whenever you are admitted to a health care facility and ask that it be entered into your electronic health record.
- Keep a copy of your advance directive where it can be easily found.
- You can make changes to your advance directive at any time.

We recommend you update your document every few years, or follow the 5D rule:

- Every new decade of your life.
- After the death of a loved one.
- After a divorce.
- After any significant diagnosis.
- After any significant decline in functioning.

Remember the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care is for medical decisions only. A different power of attorney form is required if you wish to designate someone to make financial decisions for you. Be sure you understand the difference between a medical power of attorney and a financial power of attorney.

The Respecting Choices at Beaumont advance directive form can be found online, along with additional information at: beaumont.org/respecting-choices

Sharing your wishes and beliefs can be a gift to your family and friends.