Advance Care Planning in Wisconsin

What is Advance Care Planning?
Advance care planning is the process of understanding, thinking about, and talking about your wishes for health care if you are not able to speak for yourself.

Advance care planning is talking with your loved ones and doctors about who you would trust to speak for you if you couldn’t speak for yourself, such as if you suddenly got sick or are injured, or when you are at the end of your life. Advance care planning is also completing important legal forms (called Advance Directives) to ensure your wishes are known and respected.

Talking about your wishes and completing the forms are very important in Wisconsin as there is no automatic decision maker in these situations. Contact your doctor’s office or local Advance Care Planning resource to learn more and get help.

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1. Contact: Health Care Providers
   - Advocate Aurora
     - https://www.aurorahealthcare.org/services/advance-care-planning
   - Agnesian Healthcare
   - Ascension Wisconsin
     - https://healthcare.ascension.org/Specialty-Care/Advance-Directives
     - https://www.fvacpp.org (Fox Valley)
   - Aspirus
     - https://www.aspirus.org/advance-directives
   - Bellin Health
     - https://www.bellin.org/patients_visitors/patient-information/advanced-directives
   - My Choice Family Care – Care Wisconsin
     - https://www.carewisc.org
   - Community Care
     - https://communitycareinc.org

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• Dean Health Plan/SSM  
  o  https://www.deancare.com/members/advanced-directives

• Divine Savior Healthcare  
  o  https://dshealthcare.com/social_services

• Essentia Health  
  o  https://www.essentiahealth.org/patients-visitors/advance-care-planning/

• Fort Healthcare  
  o  https://www.forthhealthcare.com/patient-info/advance-directives/

• Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin  
  o  https://www.froedtert.com/patients-visitors/advanced-directive

• Gundersen Health System  
  o  https://www.gundersenhealth.org/patients-visitors/advance-care-planning/

• Holy Family Memorial  
  o  https://www.hfmhealth.org/poa/

• HSHS  
  o  https://www.stmgb.org/Patients-Guests/Advance-Directives/  
  o  https://www.sacredhearteauclaire.org/Patients-Guests/Advance-Patient-Directives

• Marshfield Health System  
  o  https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/patient-resources/advance-directives

• Mayo Clinic Health System  
  o  https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/locations/la-crosse/patients-and-visitors/advance-care-planning

• Mercyhealth System  
  o  https://mercyhealthsystem.org/service/advance-care-planning/

• Prevea Health  
  o  https://www.prevea.com/For-Patients/Advance-Directives

• ProHealth Care  
  o  https://www.prohealthcare.org/patients-families/advance-care-planning/

• St. Croix Regional Medical Center  
  o  https://www.scrmc.org/patients-visitors/patient-information/advance-directives-honoring-choices/
• ThedaCare
  o https://www.onlineregistrationcenter.com/registerlist.asp?m=346&p=2&ps=1&pas_referrer=Tcweb&vs=5&s=1&sb=1&al=1&lp=1&rt=DETAILS_REGISTER&deh=1&keyword=advance%20care&tid=222
  o https://www.fvacpp.org (Fox Valley)

• UnityPoint Health – Meriter
  o https://www.unitypoint.org/madison/advance-care-planning.aspx

• UW Health
  o https://www.uwhealth.org/patient-guides/uw-hospital/advance-care-planning/13373

• Upland Hills Health
  o https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/honoring-choices-advance-directives/

• Watertown Regional Medical Center
  o https://www.watertownregional.com/patients-and-visitors/advanced-directives

• Wisconsin VA System
  o https://www.milwaukee.va.gov/patients/advance.asp
  o https://www.madison.va.gov/patients/advance.asp

2. Contact: Community Organizations
• Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership
  o https://www.fvacpp.org

• Kenosha County Care Transitions Coalition
  o https://sites.google.com/site/kenoshacocaretransitions/home

• Brown County Prevention Coalition: Advanced Directive Subcommittee
  o https://adrcofbrowncounty.org/advanced-directive-subcommittee/

3. Additional Resources
• Honoring Choices Wisconsin

• Wisconsin Department of Health Services: End of Life Planning
  o https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/guide/end-life-planning.htm
  o https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives/adformspoa.htm

• Wisconsin Bar Association
  o https://www.wisbar.org/forPublic/INeedInformation/Pages/Health-Care.aspx

• The Conversation Project
4. Help to Make Your Form Legal
To make your Advance Directive form legal in Wisconsin, **2 people must watch you sign it and they must also sign on the same day as you.** These 2 people are known as “Witnesses.” They are witnessing you sign and attesting that you are “of sound mind and body.”

**For Advance Directive forms, Witnesses MUST be:**
- At least 18 years of age
- NOT one of the people you listed as a health care agent
- NOT your family member or relative (by blood, marriage, domestic partnership or adoption)
- NOT your health care provider (Doctor, Nurse, etc.) directly serving you at this time
- NOT an employee of your health care system (unless they are a Social Worker or Chaplain)
- NOT directly financially responsible for your health care
- NOT aware that they entitled to or have a claim against your estate

**Potential witnesses may be:**
- Friends
- Neighbors
- Co-workers
- People from your faith community or church
- Employees at your Bank or Lawyer’s Office
  - Do not notarize Advance Directive forms
  - Call ahead to make sure help will be available

5. Other Recommendations
- All adults 18 years of age and older should complete advance care planning
- Reach out for help if you need it (see Contacts above)
- When you are done:
  - Get copies to your doctor’s office and loved ones you trust
  - Keep your original forms in a safe and accessible place (NOT in a safety deposit box)
  - Keep ALL pages of the form together and include all of them when you make copies, even if you didn’t complete optional pages
- Review your Advance Directive form:
  - Every 5-10 years
  - If you get a new diagnosis or if your health declines
  - If you move to a senior living facility, assisted living, or nursing home
- If you get divorced and your former spouse was your agent, the Advance Directive form is null and void and you need to complete a new document

April 2020

- [https://theconversationproject.org/nhdd/advance-care-planning/](https://theconversationproject.org/nhdd/advance-care-planning/)