



## DEFINITIONS:

*Let's all get on the same page*

### Advance Care Planning:

Advance Care Planning is an ongoing conversation of understanding, reflecting on, and discussing future medical decisions and preferences, should you be unable to speak for yourself

### Advance Directives:

Advance Directives are legal documents that contain your written wishes about your health care that you provide ahead of time. There are five different advance directives and all are important, but we are discussing the Power of Attorney for Healthcare.

### Healthcare Agent:

Healthcare agents are also known as your power of attorney for healthcare. This person is who will speak for you if you are unable, but **ONLY** about healthcare decisions. You must separately name a POA for finances.

### Hospice:

Hospice provides pain relief and comfort care for those who are expected to die within the next six months

### Palliative Care:

Palliative care differs from hospice in that it provides care to anyone who is seriously ill, **regardless of prognosis**

## Contact Us

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## ADVANCE CARE PLANNING 101

Talking to Patients

## Why should I talk to my patients about it?

Advance care planning is important for anyone who is 18 or older. Accidents and sudden illnesses can happen to anyone at anytime, so it is best to be prepared just in case.

Wisconsin is **NOT** a next-of-kin state. This means if something happens to you, your loved ones do not automatically become your healthcare agents. They need to be assigned that role through an advance directive.



## How can I bring up this conversation?

Here are some potential conversation starters:

- I noticed you do not have an advance directive on file (or it hasn't been updated in awhile), have you considered completing one?
- Have you thought about who you want to make medical decisions for you if your are unable to speak for yourself? Have you talked with that person about your wishes?
- Since you are over 18, it's really important to complete an advance directive.

## Where should I send them to learn more?

If your patient is interested in completing an advance directive and learning more, you should direct them to our community calendar. There, they can find free classes to sign up for. The following QR code takes you to the community calendar.

