

Healthcare Providers:

LET'S TALK, FACTS

about advance care planning

MYTH:

If a patient is unable to speak, their family members can automatically make healthcare decisions on their behalf.

FACT:

Wisconsin is NOT a next-of-kin state, so without an advance directive for power of attorney for healthcare, a patient does not have a power of attorney for healthcare. That means their loved ones would have to get court-appointed guardianship, which is expensive, time-consuming, and more restrictive than power of attorney.



MYTH:

In Wisconsin, two physicians must determine that the patient has lost decision making capacity in order to activate a Power of Attorney for Health Care

FACT:

It depends. The document will state who can activate it. Current law says that to activate the POA-HC, 2 physicians or 1 physician and one advanced practice clinician must determine incapacity. POA-HC's completed before 2019 may state that 2 physicians or 1 physician and 1 psychologist can activate it. You must follow what is stated in the patient's document.

MYTH:

A patient must be oriented to person, place and time in order to possess decision-making

FACT:

The three criteria patients must meet to demonstrate decision making capacity are:

1. Understand the information (ability to relate what they have been told and what it means)
2. Ability to make a rational Evaluation of the burdens, risks, benefits, and alternatives to the proposed health care
3. Communicate a choice

MYTH:

After filling out an advance directive, it cannot be updated.



FACT:

Advance directives can be updated at any point. In fact, a new one should be completed after the 5 D's: divorce, decade, death (of a loved one), diagnosis, and decline in health.

MYTH:

All my patients need to do for advance care planning is filling out an advance directive.

Let's talk about your
future healthcare

FACT:

The documents are important, but encouraging patients to have conversations with loved ones about their wishes is even more crucial. No one is a mind reader; it will be easier on patients' loved ones and physicians if these conversations have taken place before anything happens.



Use the QR code to sign up for a free advance care planning class to complete an advance directive