



Crucial Conversations

February 2015



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Most of us are able to acknowledge the inevitability of death. Too few of us are willing to spend time considering the care we would wish at the end of life. Without proper planning and legal documents, our final days could be spent in a hospital, tethered to machines without the ability to participate in decisions regarding our own life.

It doesn't have to be this way. There are legal documents readily available to specify ahead of time our choices about life sustaining treatments and to provide clarity to our wishes in advance of a crisis. An advance directive documents our wishes regarding medical care should we become unable to speak for ourselves.

We are living longer with chronic health conditions and medical advances provide more and more options to consider. Our professional care managers can facilitate the conversation with individuals and families about their values, beliefs, traditions and fears at end of life. They can ask the tough questions about life sustaining treatments when there is advanced stage dementia, heart failure or cancer. And if you could choose, how would you want to spend your final days and where would you want to die?

When you choose a health care agent, you need to discuss your preferences with that person and update these conversations on a regular basis. Contact us for more information about topics to discuss with your Power of Attorney for Health Care.

<http://1.usa.gov/1AHMQts>

QUESTIONS

If you know anyone who needs our services, please encourage them to call 414-963-2600; a highly qualified professional Care Manager is available to help.

Since 1983 improving the quality of the day to day lives of our clients and their families in ways both small and large. Nationally Accredited by the Joint Commission. Locally owned by professional social workers who are leaders locally and nationally. Recognized as a Top Workplace 2011-2014 receiving Best in Class and a Special Leadership Award (2011), a Training Award (2012) and Best in Class and a Special Management Award (2014). Torch Award recipient for Business Ethics and Integrity from the Wisconsin Better Business Bureau (2004).

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