

### ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

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# What is advance care planning?

A process of mapping out the types of medical and non-medical care you would like to receive at some future point should a life-threatening or terminal disease make it impossible for you to express your wishes at that time.



## Preparations

- Ethical Will
- Advance directive
  - Directive to Physician & Family
  - Medical Power of Attorney
  - Out of hospital do not resuscitate order (if applicable)
  - Directive for Mental Health treatment (if desried)
- Organ/body donation choices
- Letter to family & friends
- Funeral arrangements
- Financial planning (Last Will & Testament)
  - Need to confer with an attorney
- Conversations with family & friends



### **Ethical Will**

- These documents come out of the medieval Jewish tradition
- The purpose of such wills is to inform future generations about your life, values, stories, wishes for them, and concerns.
- For your family, this provides a notion of your story, your legacy, and of your hopes and dreams.
- For yourself, this document helps you to make meaning of your life and now that your values and ideas will still exist. The process helps you to learn about yourself.
- Ethical wills often contain
  - Your personal values and beliefs
  - Your spiritual values
  - Your hopes for future generations
  - Any lesson's from your life
  - Mention of your love for others
  - Forgiving others and asking for forgiveness
  - Sharing poignant memories



# Organ/Body Donation



UTHSCSA Willed Body Program http://www.uthscsa.edu/csb/willedbody/

#### Donatelifetexas.org



#### THE UTHSCSA WILLED BODY PROGRAM

Benefiting future generations through the gift of your body

This portion of the website is dedicated to body donors, in gratitude for their lasting contribution to the medical sciences and to humankind.

From ancient times, physicians have studied the human body, striving to unlock its secrets in order to treat more successfully the illnesses that continue to ravage humankind. For more than 500 years, this kind of study has been pursued in a scientific way, providing the principal means of introducing aspiring young doctors to the internal structure of the human body, laying a foundation for an understanding of normal bodily functions and how disease may affect both structure and function.

### **Advance Directives**

- EMTALA requires that all federally funded health care institutions ask patients about advance directives
- Most states have an advance directive statute
- Should have an advance directive for the state in which you reside
- Directive to Physician & Family
  - Comes into effect when a person (a) has a terminal illness or irreversible condition AND (b) lacks competency (is not longer able to make and communicate well reasoned medical choices).
  - A gift to your family & friends
  - Lets people know what you do and do not want in your end of life decisions
  - You must be competent & capacitate to create
  - You do not have to be competent or capacitated to revoke
  - Does not apply if you are pregnant

### **Advance Directives**

- Medical Power of Attorney
  - Names an individual to make your health care decisions when you are no longer able to
    - Does not require that you have a terminal illness or irreversible condition, just that you lack competency
    - Cannot make decisions regarding termination of pregnancy, electroshock therapy, or voluntary mental illness commitment
  - If you do not have this form, then Texas law says the following people make your decisions for you
    - 1. The patient's spouse
    - The patient's reasonably available adult children
    - 3. The patient's parents
    - 4. The patient's nearest living relative
    - 5. If there is no legal guardian and none of the above are available, then the decision may be made by a clergy member (all decisions except for life sustaining treatment) or 2 physicians.

### Advance Directives

- Out of hospital do not resuscitate order
  - Only document that permits EMS to withdraw or withhold giving resuscitation
  - Can order a bracelet or pendant as well
  - Must be signed by a physician and witnesses



# Summary

- Let your family & friends know your end of life wishes
- Document your end of life wishes
- You are providing a gift to your family and friend

### Thank You



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