

About Advance Directives

Your care team at Brown Health Medical Group Primary Care is here to help.

To have a conversation about advance directives, please contact your primary care practice.

To access copies of the advance care planning options shown below, please visit bit.ly/bhmgpc-health-resources.



What is an Advance Directive?
An advance directive is a legal document that explains how you want medical decisions made on your behalf if you are unable to make them yourself. It also allows you to express your values and desires related to end-of-life care. Your advance directives should be routinely reviewed with your family, care team, and physician. Advance directives can also be modified as your views or health situation change at any time. The best time to complete an advance directive is when you are healthy and able to make clear decisions.

Types of Advance Directives			
Name	Description	May Include	Considerations
Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST)	A medical order form that tells others your wishes for life-sustaining treatment. This form is appropriate for patients who either want to avoid or receive any or all life-sustaining treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) / Do Not Intubate (DNI) wishes Treatment guidelines Feeding/breathing tube instructions Future hospitalizations/transfers Artificial fluids/nutrition or medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be signed by you and a physician/nurse practitioner/physician assistant Not restricted by age or condition Keep on your refrigerator – emergency response workers are trained to look for this form there
Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPOA)	A legal document that allows you to choose a person to speak on your behalf about your healthcare wishes should you become unable to do so yourself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care proxy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chosen individual(s) should know you well and advocate for you and your wishes - must be 18 years of age or older Not related to a will of property and finances Enacted only when a physician determines that you are unable to make your own healthcare decisions Must be signed by two witnesses
Living Will (LW)	A legal document that informs health care professionals what type of medical treatment to perform if they have a terminal condition/situation in the future to keep them alive. It describes circumstances in which an attempt to prolong life should be started or stopped.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comfort Measures Only (CMO) Breathing machines IV fluids DNR/DNI wishes Organ donation Dialysis Tube feedings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually completed by an attorney and includes estate planning Enacted only when a physician determines that you are unable to make your own healthcare decisions
Five Wishes	A legal form published to help people prepare an advance medical directive to address what should happen if they become ill and are no longer able to make decisions for themselves.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wishes 1 and 2 are a legal document Wishes 3, 4, and 5 are unique to Five Wishes only in that they address matters of comfort care, spirituality, forgiveness, and final wishes Accepted legally in over 40 states (including Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut) and helpful for planning in all 50 states