Advanced HEALTHCARE PLANNING

Planning ahead for your medical care ensures that your wishes are respected—especially in situations where you may not be able to speak for yourself.

WHY IT MATTERS

Accidents, illness, or cognitive decline can strike unexpectedly. Advance planning gives your loved ones clarity, reduces stress and ensures your healthcare preferences are honored.

KEY DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Advance Health Care Directive (AHCD): Names a trusted person (healthcare proxy) to make decisions on your behalf and outlines your care preferences.
- **Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care:** Legally authorizes someone to make medical decisions if you're unable to.
- POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment): A medical order for those with serious illness or frailty, specifying treatments you want or do not want.
- HIPAA Authorization: Allows named individuals to access your health information and speak with your care team.

PLANNING TIPS

- Discuss your wishes with family before a crisis.
- Choose decision-makers you trust and who understand your values.
- Keep copies of documents in an easy-to-access place and share them with your doctor and chosen representative.



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