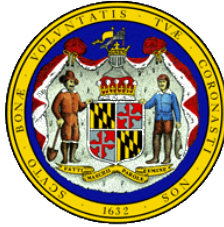


LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR



TED MEYERSON
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON QUALITY CARE AT THE END OF LIFE

National Healthcare Decisions Day 2017

Understanding the importance of advance care planning the Maryland General Assembly passed a law declaring April 16 as *National Healthcare Decisions Day*.

We would like you to participate in the event by encouraging people, eighteen years and older, to think about, discuss, and prepare an Advance Directive that indicates the medical care they would want should they be unable to speak for themselves.

An Advance Directive allows a person to select a decision maker, helps assure that a person receives the kind of medical treatments he/she would want or not want, and gives guidance to those making terribly hard decisions. Furthermore, an advance directive may lead to reduced hospital costs by avoiding unwanted and unnecessary health care.

Advance directives are free, readily available, and straightforward. They may be obtained online and from the State, health care facilities, and faith-based institutions. Some good online resources you might share with your patients are:

1. National Health Care Decisions Day
<http://www.nhdd.org/#welcome>
2. National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization – Caring Info
<http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3537>
3. Maryland Attorney General’s Office – Advance Directives
<http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/HealthPolicy/advancedirectives.aspx>

The Council urges that you support and promote Advance Directives at all times, and especially during Maryland’s Health Care Decisions Day.

Sincerely,

Ted Meyerson, Chair

ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND INQUIRIES TO:

Paul J. Ballard, Director, Health Decisions Policy
200 Saint Paul Place • Baltimore, Maryland, 21202-2021
Telephone Numbers: (410) 576-6327 • (888) 743-0023 • D.C. Metro (301) 470-7534
Telephone for Deaf: (410) 576-6372