

Advance Care Planning – Terms and Acronyms

Term	Acronym	Definition	Also Known As
Advance Care Planning	ACP	Advance care plans provide direction to medical professionals when an individual no longer has the capacity to make and/or communicate his/her own health care choices. Planning now can help ensure you get the medical care you want and that someone you trust will be there to make decisions for you.	
Advance Directive	AD	A written tool used to guide health care decisions when an individual is unable to do so because of incapacity.	Living Will or Power of Attorney for Health Care or Durable POA. In some states including Minnesota, an Advance Directive is called a Health Care Directive.
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	CPR	A procedure used if your heart and lungs stop working. CPR can include chest compressions, defibrillation (electric shock), medications and/or a tube in your throat.	Full Code
Do Not Intubate	DNI	An order put into your medical record if you don't want to be on a ventilator	
Do Not Resuscitate	DNR	Physician's written instruction to medical personnel not to attempt CPR if your heart stops beating or you stop breathing	AND = Allow Natural Death
Health Care Agent		One or more persons legally authorized to make health care decisions for someone who does not have decision-making capacity.	Health Care Proxy, Substitute Decision Maker, Health Care Representative
Health Care Directive		In Minnesota, an Advance Directive is called a Health Care Directive. It combines the general purposes of both the Living Will (your preferences for care) and Durable POA for Health Care (who will speak for you) into one legal document. Health Care Directives are governed by MN 2022 Statutes Chapter 145C.	Advance Directive
Intravenous	IV	A narrow, flexible plastic tube placed in a vein to give you fluids, medicine and blood.	
Intubation		An individual is intubated when you cannot breathe on your own. A breathing tube is placed in your mouth, to your lungs and is attached to a ventilator.	Breathing tube
Living Will		A document that specifies your values and preferences regarding medical treatment when you can no longer speak for yourself.	
Power of Attorney for Health Care	POA	Gives authority to another person to make health care decisions for you if you cannot express your own choices.	Durable POA for Health Care
Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment	POLST	A medical order that can give patients with advanced serious illness increased control over the treatment they do and do not want to receive at the end of life. A POLST form needs to be signed by a provider to be valid. A POLST is portable and helps to ensure the patient's wishes are conveyed to emergency services and other medical providers.	
Ventilator		A machine that pushes a mixture of air and oxygen in and out of your lungs to breathe for you. The machine connects to a tube that goes through your mouth and down your windpipe at the back of your throat.	Breathing machine