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Five Myths About Advance Care Planning

Many people have misconceptions about advance care planning. Learn about these common myths and get the facts.

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Five Myths About Advance Care Planning

Get the facts about these common advance care planning myths.

Myth

I only need a plan if I'm very old or ill.



Fact

It's impossible to predict the future. An emergency can happen at any age. Creating a plan now helps ensure that someone you trust can make decisions that reflect your wishes.

Myth

My loved ones will know what I want when the time comes.



Fact

Not necessarily. In one study, nearly 1 in 3 people guessed wrong when asked to predict which end-of-life decisions their loved one would make.

Mvth

An advance care plan only matters if I put it in writing.



Fact

The most important part of planning is discussing your wishes with your loved ones. It can save them from worrying about whether they made the right decisions for you.

Myth

I need a lawyer to create an advance care plan.



Fact

Most states offer free advance directive forms online, and you do not have to involve a lawyer.

Myth

Once I put my plans in writing, I can't change them.



Fact

Your advance directives can be changed at any time. In fact, you should review your plans at least once a year and after any major life event like a move, divorce, or change in your health.

Ready to get started?

Visit www.nia.nih.gov/acp



You may also be interested in

- · Learning about advance directives for health care
- Exploring a <u>checklist to help get your affairs in order</u>
- Downloading or ordering a free pamphlet on getting your affairs in order

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Last updated: September 13, 2023

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