

Catholic Health Association of BC



Advance Care Planning

Why is ACP Important?

- ▶ Reduces Stress of worrying about what happens with your family when you die.
- ▶ Ensures that those who will care for you understand your wishes if you are no longer able to express them
- ▶ Reduces risk of conflict as to who will make decisions on your behalf
- ▶ Avoid long legal proceedings and costs if you die intestate (without a will)
- ▶ Ensures that the person or people who will make decisions on your behalf are those in whom you have faith and trust to make the right decisions for you

What are the documents that can be used?

▶ A Representation Agreement

- ▶ Section 7 Agreement - basic care needs and routine financial decisions
- ▶ Section 9 Agreement - able to make decisions about life-prolonging and medical interventions
- ▶ Both are void at death

▶ Advance Directive

- ▶ States your decisions about refusing or accepting health care treatments.
- ▶ Appoints your preference for Temporary Substitute Decision Maker (TSDM)
- ▶ May be in addition to a representation agreement.
- ▶ This directive must be followed when it addresses the health care decision needed at the time.

Documents - Continued

- ▶ Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST)
 - ▶ Is prepared with your doctor and describes the range of things you would want done if you are unable to communicate
 - ▶ Does not address the issue of who will speak for you if you are unable
- ▶ Enduring Power of Attorney
 - ▶ Allows financial decisions but not health care decisions.
 - ▶ Terminates when the person making the PoA dies.
- ▶ Will
 - ▶ Decides how your assets will be distributed. Is effective only after death
 - ▶ Requires an Executor who will be the person responsible to ensure the will is carried out as per the wishes of the deceased.

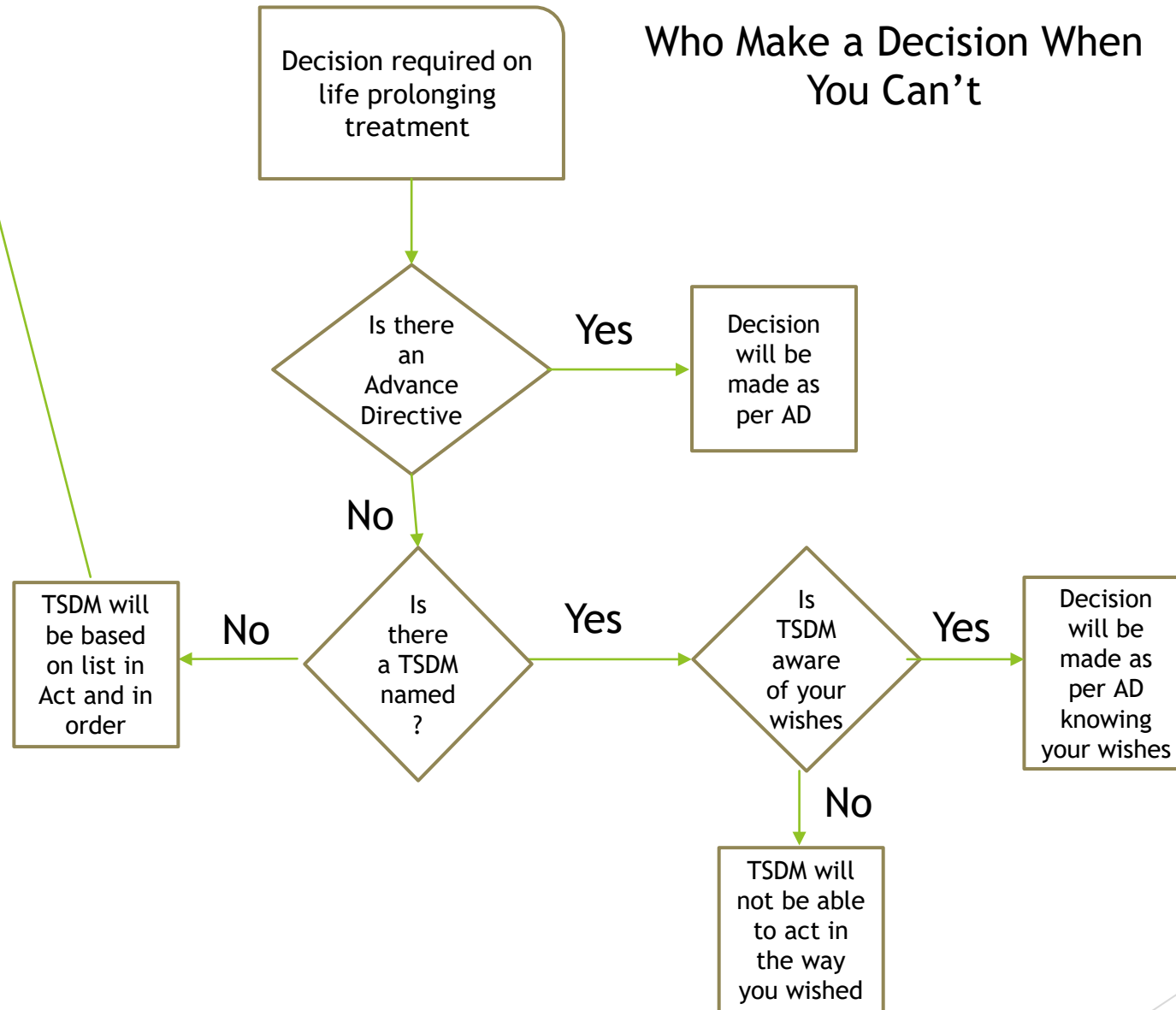
The Importance of Communicating

- ▶ Share your Advanced Directives with:
 - ▶ Those who will make decisions on your behalf
 - ▶ Your family
 - ▶ Your family doctor
 - ▶ Your pastor
 - ▶ Your caregivers (if you are in a long-term care home, make sure they are aware)
 - ▶ Any others who you think should know about your wishes
- ▶ Don't just give written copies. Talk to people about your wishes and why they are important to you.

Order if no named TSDM

- Spouse
- Child
- Parent
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- Grandchild
- Anyone else related by blood
- Close Friend
- Relative by marriage

Who Make a Decision When You Can't



Medical Assistance in Dying

- ▶ Came into force in June 2016.
- ▶ Is a euphemism for “Physician Assisted Suicide(PAS)”, “Physician Assisted Euthanasia”.
- ▶ Does not give the “Right” to PAS. The law describes certain circumstances under which a physician may end a patient’s life and avoid prosecution for murder.
- ▶ The Catholic Church is absolutely opposed to PAS. The change in the criminal laws does not change God’s law that “Thou shall not kill”.
- ▶ The acceptance of PAS is a denial of the unconditional sanctity of the life that was given by God.

What is acceptable if I have a terminal illness?

- ▶ The Church believes that death should not be hastened nor life unnecessarily prolonged. The church recognizes that:
 - ▶ It is acceptable to refuse extraordinary (or disproportionate) means to keep a person alive. When the treatment imposes excessive burdens on the patient that exceed any positive outcome, then foregoing the treatment is acceptable.
 - ▶ The Principle of Double Effect. It is acceptable to administer medication to a dying patient, for the purpose of alleviating suffering, knowing that the medication may also shorten their life.

Advanced Care Planning Wallet Card

My full name is _____

In case of emergency, call

_____ name: _____ phone

My doctor is: _____

I have an advanced care plan:

☐ With a representation Agreement (☐ Sec 7 ☐ Sec 9)

☐ With an advanced Directive

I am an organ donor ☐

My important papers are located _____

Resources

1. Nidus.ca

This website is a non-profit site that has a lot of information about ACP as well as forms, videos and reading material.

2. chabc.bc.ca

Advanced Care Planning: A Catholic Perspective

Advanced Care Planning Wallet Card

3. health.gov.bc.ca

Search for “My Voice”

Questions

