

Why Plan Ahead?

If you became seriously ill or had a serious accident, and were unlikely to recover, what sort of medical treatment would you want?

Who would you want to make decisions for you about your medical treatment?

Through planning ahead, you can guide your loved ones to make the best decisions for you, should you be unable to make those decisions for yourself.

When families and health professionals know they are making medical decisions according to your wishes, much of the burden of decision-making can be lessened.



Respecting Patient Choices (RPC) is an advance care planning program that can assist you and your family in making choices about your future medical treatment.

An RPC consultant can assist you and your family to discuss options and make choices about what is important to you and to complete your Advance Care Plan.

Your Advance Care Plan is a way of recording and communicating your values and wishes about your future health care.

How You Can Plan Ahead

- Discuss your medical condition and treatment options with your doctor.
- Talk about your wishes and values regarding your future health care with your family and friends.
- Appoint an Enduring Power of Attorney (Medical Treatment) whom you trust to understand your wishes and reinforce your health care decisions for you should you become incapable of making decisions.
- Write down your preferences in an advance care plan.

Planning in advance can guide your future medical treatment and give those who are caring for you the opportunity to respect your choices.

Next Steps

Ask your GP, nurse or case manager about advance planning or contact the RPC Office to link with an RPC consultant.

Enduring Power of Attorney (Medical Treatment) forms can be obtained from:

- an RPC consultant
- www.health.vic.gov.au/mta
- www.legalaid.vic.gov.au
- www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au
- Office of the Public Advocate
9603 9500

Respecting Patient Choices

Advance Care Planning:

- assists you in planning for the future
- makes your wishes known

For Further Information:

Respecting Patient Choices

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Eastern Health complies with the relevant privacy information and legislation

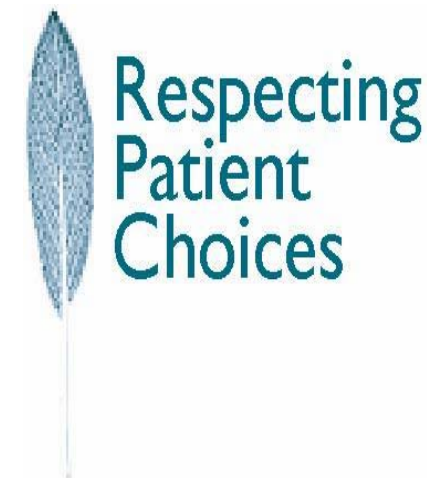
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An Advance Care Planning Program