



Health professionals have legal responsibilities to ask about and enact the treatment decisions within the AHD.

**Asking about AHDs is a part of goals of patient care.**

National Safety & Quality Health Services Standards (NSQHSS)

*Guardianship & Administration Act 1990*

Developed by End-of-Life Care Program, Department of Health WA, Aug 2022.

Updated Jun 2023.

# Getting to know WA's Advance Health Directive (AHD) (revised 2022)

An AHD is a voluntary, person-led legal document completed by an competent adult that specifies the treatment(s) for which consent is provided or refused under specific circumstances.

It is used if the person is unable to make reasonable judgements about their treatment.

# Changes and benefits of revised AHD

## CHANGES

- Includes the individual's values and preferences, in addition to treatment decisions
- Combines tick box and free text questions
- More guidance and examples
- Includes consent to medical research.

## BENEFITS OF THE CHANGES

- Easier for patients to understand and complete
- Guides the process for both the patient and health professionals
- Informs health professionals about their patient's values and preferences
- Greater focus on patient-centred care
- Supports goals of care and shared decision-making
- Demonstrates patient-centred decision making (as per NSQHSS)



### Advance Health Directive

This form is for people who want to make an Advance Health Directive in Western Australia.

To make an Advance Health Directive, you **must** be 18 years or older and have full legal capacity. Your Advance Health Directive is about your future treatment. It will only come into effect if you are unable to make reasonable judgements or decisions at a time when you require treatment.



Part 4 marked with this symbol, contains your treatment decisions. If you choose not to make any treatment decisions in Part 4, then the document is not considered a valid Advance Health Directive under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990*.

Please tick the box below to indicate that by making this Advance Health Directive you revoke all prior Advance Health Directives completed by you.

In making this Advance Health Directive, I revoke all prior Advance Health Directives made by me.

This form includes instructions to help you complete your Advance Health Directive. For more information on how to complete the form and to see examples, please read the *A Guide to Making an Advance Health Directive in Western Australia*.

Before you make your Advance Health Directive, you are encouraged to seek medical and/or legal advice, and to discuss your decisions with family and close friends. It is important that people close to you know that you have made an Advance Health Directive and where to find it. Once you complete your Advance Health Directive, it is recommended that you:

- store the original in a safe and accessible place
- tell your close family and friends that you have made an Advance Health Directive and where to find it
- upload a copy of your Advance Health Directive to My Health Record – this will ensure that your Advance Health Directive is available to your treating doctors if it is needed
- give a copy of your Advance Health Directive to health professionals regularly involved in your healthcare (for example, your General Practitioner (GP), a hospital you attend regularly, and/or other health professionals involved in your care).

If English is not your first language, you may choose to engage a translator. Western Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (WAITI) and National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) have online directories which list qualified and credentialed translators able to assist you.



# What is my role with AHDs?

## LOCATING YOUR PATIENT'S AHD

### Ask about AHDs as early as possible

- Ask your patient if they have an AHD
- If they are unsure or cannot communicate:
  - Ask their family/carer and/or GP
  - Check patient records AND My Health Record.

### Store and communicate

- If patient has an AHD, raise a clinical alert and store AHD within patient's record
- Mention the AHD and other care planning discussions in clinical handovers including
  - Referrals
  - Discharge summaries
  - Outpatient correspondence
- Encourage patients to upload their AHD to their My Health Record and support upload to My Health Record.

# What is my role with AHDs (cont.)?



## CARING FOR PATIENTS WITH AN AHD

### Linking with Goals of Patient Care (GoPC)

- Discuss content of AHDs/ advance care planning documents during GoPC discussions.
- Ensure GoPC forms align with the patient's AHD.

### Enact & follow

- If patient doesn't have decision-making capacity, refer to their AHD and when relevant:
  - comply with the treatment decisions outlined within the AHD
  - provide care in accordance with their values and preferences
  - engage with the social work team to support families/carers with patient values and preferences
- What if their AHD does not cover the treatment decision required or they do not have an AHD?
  - refer to the [Hierarchy of treatment decision-makers](#) for the order in which you must consult decision-makers.

### Review

- Encourage patients to review their AHD when their health changes or at least every 2 - 5 years.  
NB. changes cannot be made to existing AHD. A new AHD can be made to replace previous AHD if the person still has decision-making capacity.



# How can I assist patients to make AHDs?

- **Explain how AHDs inform health professionals** of a person's values, beliefs and preferences should they lose the ability to communicate treatment decisions.
- **Provide advice** to help patients make informed treatment decisions within their AHD e.g.
  - answer questions regarding concerns about their health
  - talk through options for future care.
- **Refer patients to:**
  - services to support advance care planning discussions and complete AHDs:
    - Other departments or services within your hospital (e.g. ACP clinics)
    - Local services (e.g. Palliative Care Helpline 1800 573 299)
  - [healthywa.wa.gov.au/AdvanceHealthDirectives](https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/AdvanceHealthDirectives) for more information and to access:
    - a copy of the AHD
    - the *Guide to Making an Advance Health Directive in WA* for instructions on completing AHDs

**To learn more about Advance Health Directives (including FAQs):**

[health.wa.gov.au/AHD](https://health.wa.gov.au/AHD)

Department of Health WA Advance Care Planning Line:

(08) 9222 2300 [ACP@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:ACP@health.wa.gov.au)