



PRACTICE ALERT

2018 NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

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National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) is April 16, 2018. NHDD begins a week of engagement to consider the importance of advance care planning. According to The Conversation Project's National Survey, 90% of people say that talking with their loved ones about end-of-life care is important-- and 27% have actually done so. There is no better time than the present to communicate preferences and wishes about end-of-life care with your loved ones and providers. In health care and community settings, social workers serve an important role in supporting individuals and families to plan for their health care needs.

As a social worker, what can you do?

- **Host an event at your organization & make time to have the conversation with your family.** For recommendations on how to begin and sample agendas, go to The Conversation Project's Community Resource Center
<https://theconversationproject.org/resources/?redirdoc=12570#12570>
- **Locate and share resources.** Each state has specific resources and guidelines to help you author an advance care plan. Search by state on the Medicare website for local support
<https://www.medicare.gov/manage-your-health/advance-directives/advance-directives-and-long-term-care.html>
- **Consider what values and beliefs shape the care you desire.** The Conversation Project Starter Kit, a free online resource, can help individuals begin to think about what matters most to them, <https://theconversationproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ConversationProject-ConvoStarterKit-English.pdf>
- **Lead by example and complete your own advance care plan.** Then, educate your networks about your experience in person and virtually!

Additional Resources

The Conversation Project <https://theconversationproject.org/>

NASW Practice Perspectives, Reexamining Advance Care Planning
<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=cmlZX6xpY4c%3d&portalid=0>

Eldercare Workforce Alliance Issue Brief, End-of-Life Care: Preparing the Eldercare Workforce
https://eldercareworkforce.org/files/End_of_Life_Care_Brief_EWA_Final.pdf

NASW Standards for Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings
<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=fFnsRHX-4HE%3d&portalid=0>

NASW Standards for Palliative and End-of-Life Care
<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=xBMd58VwEhk%3d&portalid=0>