



ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

February 10, 2016

Dear Care1st and ONECare Physicians and Office Staff:

Help patients express their wishes by providing information on advance directives, and documenting discussions in the medical record.

More than 80% of patients say that they wish to avoid hospitalization and intensive care at the end of life. However, those wishes are often overridden because they are not known by family members and health care providers.

Research also shows that:

- One-third of patients would discuss advance care planning if a physician brought up the subject.
- Only 5% of patients say they find discussions about advance care planning too difficult.

Advance care planning is not just for people who are very ill or very old. Any of us could become incapacitated and we want to know that our wishes will be honored.

Patients are not required to have an advance directive, but providers are required to give them information. This applies to ONECare and Care1st (Acute and DDD) members. Medicaid and Medicare providers are required to give patients information on their right to make decisions about their medical care, including the right to accept or refuse specific treatments and the right to formulate advance directives. Physicians must also document in the medical record whether a patient has executed an advance directive, and any discussions about advance care planning.

For our providers who serve DDD members, note that members over 18 years who act as their own guardians may execute advance directives.

For resources on advance directives, including downloadable forms, go to the Arizona Attorney General's website at <https://www.azag.gov/seniors/life-care-planning>.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Care1st Provider Network Operations 602.778.1800 or 866.560.4042 (Select Option 5, 7).

Thank You!

Provider Network Operations
Phone 602.778.1800 or 866.560.4042 (Options in order: 5, 7)
Fax 602.778.1875

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