

# ADVANCE CARE PLANNING



Stroke can suddenly impact a person's ability to make decisions.



Advance care planning ensures that the care received is tailored to each person's needs and wishes.

## WHAT IS ADVANCE CARE PLANNING?

Advance care planning involves an individual reflecting on their values/wishes and how these influence what they would want should they be unable to make health care decisions. This is then communicated to a decision-maker to act on their behalf.

## WHO IS THE DECISION MAKER?

In Ontario, a decision-maker can be appointed legally or chosen according to the hierarchy of the Substitute Decisions Act:



### Legally appointed decision-makers

- Court appointed guardian
- Attorney for Personal Care
- Representative appointed by consent and capacity board

If a decision-maker has **not been legally appointed**, the health care team must defer to the hierarchy of automatic family member decision-makers:

1. Spouse or Partner
2. Parents or Children (if multiple, see below)
3. Parent with right of access only
4. Siblings (if multiple, see below)
5. Any other relative



## ! IMPORTANT

If there are multiple children or siblings they would all have to agree with the health care decision before the health care team is able to move forward with care plan.

The decision-maker must be available, capable and willing at the time a decision needs to be made.

If there are no decision-makers or family is unable to mutually decide on a plan of care the health care team will contact the Public Guardian and Trustee to assist with decision making. If you require a decision to be made by the Ontario Public Guardian and Trustee under the Health Care Consent Act, contact the treatment decisions unit at the designated regional office:



[www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/contact.php](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/contact.php)

### CHAMPLAIN REGION DESIGNATED OFFICE

Ottawa • 351 Preston St., Suite 200, Ottawa, ON, K1S 2E6

Tel: (613) 241-1202 • Toll-free: 1-800-891-0506 • Fax: (613) 241-1567

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?



### Start the conversation with your patients!

Although it is best if discussions about advance care planning occur before a health care crisis, if your patient is capable, planning can happen any time.