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Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

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Advance Directives and Living Wills: A Medical Record Necessity

Do you know your patients' wishes if they and their families face a health crisis? We encourage you to ask your patients (18 years or older) if they have advance directives or living wills, and to record their responses, yes or no, in their medical records. Be sure to keep a copy of the advance directive and/or living will in the patient's medical file.

When we perform our annual medical record reviews to meet our regulatory responsibilities this information is very important. During the review, we check to see if you have asked your patients about advance directives, including a living will, and if you have copies in their medical records.

Thank you for ensuring that you capture this important information for your patients' medical records. If you have questions regarding our annual medical record reviews, please contact Joanne Keenan at 800-555-8228, extension 87329.