

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 who are 18 years or older if they have advance directives or a living will, and record their responses, yes or no, in their medical records. Be sure to keep a copy of the advance directives 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.

We recently shared information about a new commercial member program, **Living Well**, designed to help our members with progressive illness to think through and discuss advanced care and life planning. For more information about this program click [here](#).

Thank you for ensuring 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.