GLOSSARY

v1 | Nov 2020

Advance Healthcare Directive
An Advance Healthcare Directive (AHD) is an expression made by a person who has reached the age of 18 years who has capacity in writing (to include voice, video recording and speech recognition technologies) of their will and preferences concerning specific treatment decisions that may arise if he or she subsequently lacks capacity. An Advance Healthcare Directive is legally binding (therefore certain formalities must be followed) when a person writes down what treatments they would refuse in the future and the circumstances in which the refusal is intended to apply.

Advance Care Planning is a process that enables individuals to make plans about their future health care. Advance care plans provide direction to healthcare professionals when a person is not in a position to make and/or communicate their own healthcare choices.

The Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act (2015) provides that a request for specific treatment is not legally binding but should be followed if relevant to the medical condition for which treatment is required.

Codes of practice are being developed to indicate the formalities required to comply with the provisions of the Assisted Decision Making Act (ADMA) Act (2015).

Attorney (Under an Enduring Power of Attorney)
The name given to a person(s) you have given authority to manage your affairs/make healthcare decisions on your behalf in the event that you lack the capacity to make those decisions for yourself. An attorney(s) appointed under an Enduring Power of Attorney can be given authority to make decisions related to property and affairs and/or personal welfare. Personal welfare can include healthcare decisions but not the refusal of life-sustaining treatments. Basic Care This includes, but is not limited to, warmth, shelter, oral nutrition and oral hydration and hygiene measures.

Capacity (Decision Making Capacity)
The ability of a person to understand, retain, use or weigh up the information needed to make a particular decision at a specific time or to communicate his/her wishes.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
An emergency manoeuvre which is applied directly to the chest of a person whose heart has stopped. It manually preserves brain function until further measures can be taken to restore regular blood circulation and breathing.

Deputy or Key holder This is an important person in your life (such as key family members or close friends) whom you trust enough to provide access to some or all of your plans and wishes.

Defibrillation
Treating the heart with a dose of electricity when it has stopped. The device used to do this is called a defibrillator.

Designated Healthcare Representative A person you may choose to nominate in an Advance Healthcare Directive. This person will have whatever authority you have given them in your Advance Healthcare Directive and he or she must sign the Advance Healthcare Directive to confirm his or her willingness to act in accordance with your directive.

Dialysis A process for removing waste and excess water from the blood. It is mainly used as an artificial replacement for kidney function in a person whose own kidneys are failing or have failed.

Enduring Power of Attorney An Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) is a document, drawn up with a person who has capacity, which gives another person(s) the power to make general and/or specific decisions. This comes into effect when a person lacks decision-making capacity and their enduring power is registered with the Wards of Court Office. An EPA created on the commencement of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 will be registered with the Director of the Decision Support Service. No decision in relation to life sustaining treatment can be included in an EPA.

Executor(s) This is a person(s) named in a Will that will have responsibility for making sure the directions contained in the Will are carried out and your estate is properly administered. Intravenous A method of administering medication or fluid to a patient by delivering it directly into their veins. Life Assurance This is an insurance product where periodic payments are made to an insurance company, in return for which they either make a lump sum payment to your family or meet a particular liability (e.g. mortgage) if you die.

Key holder This is an important person in your life (such as key family members or close friends) whom you trust enough to provide access to some or all of your plans and wishes.

Life-sustaining treatment Treatment which replaces, or supports, a bodily function which is not operating properly or failing. Nasogastric tube feeding A method of artificial feeding in which a tube is passed through the nose, past the throat, and down into the stomach.

Palliative Care An area of healthcare which aims to improve the quality of life of patients through the prevention and relief of suffering. It can be appropriate for patients in all disease stages, from those undergoing treatment for curable illnesses to those nearing end of life.

PEG tube feeding Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy. This is a method of artificial feeding in which a tube is passed into a patient's stomach.

Treatment Means an intervention that is or may be done for a therapeutic, preventative, diagnostic, palliative or other purpose related to the physical or mental health of the person, and includes life-sustaining treatment, artificial hydration and artificial nutrition.

Trust This is where property is held "on trust" for the benefit of another person. Often, people create trusts in their lifetime or in their Will setting out how money or property should be handled for minor children or other family members who, for some reason, cannot take responsibility for it themselves.

Ventilator A machine which provides a mechanism of breathing for a patient who cannot breathe properly for themselves. It mechanically moves breathable air in and out of the lungs. Will This is a legal document which sets out in writing your directions as to how your property/ possessions should be distributed upon your death.