

7 Things You Need to Know About Advance Directives for Your Patients

- 1.** Everyone over 18 should have an advance directive (e.g., a living will, durable power of attorney for healthcare decisions, Five Wishes document, POLST/MOLST document).
- 2.** They give patients control of their medical care if they can't speak for themselves.
- 3.** They're billable: Medicare reimburses you up to \$86 to discuss end-of-life care with patients.
- 4.** The conversation is easier when the patient is healthy and alert. Ideally, families should be involved in the conversation to explore values, preferences and goals for care.
- 5.** They can be modified over time.
- 6.** Your patients are waiting for you to start the conversation.
- 7.** People who document their healthcare preferences in an advance directive are more likely to get the care they prefer at the end of life.¹

Want to know more?

- **HospiceCanHelp.com:** A hospice discussion guide for families
- **NHDD.org:** Free state-specific resources
- **VITAS.com:** Free webinars, tips and FAQs