



HEALTHCARE DISCUSSION CHECKLIST

Disclaimer: MLO Law LLC is not a medical provider, therefore, this document is for informational and educational purposes only. Please consult your physician for further clarification on any of the below topics if needed.

Suggested Topics to Discuss with Your Healthcare Agent

Your Healthcare Agent has broad powers to make healthcare decisions for you when you are unable to make those decisions yourself. It is important for your Healthcare Agent to know your wishes regarding your healthcare preferences so that he or she can take those preferences into account when making these decisions on your behalf. Discuss your healthcare preferences with your Healthcare Agent periodically to ensure he or she knows what your current preferences are.

- Life Support.** Life support is a treatment or procedure that is given when a patient's body cannot keep itself alive. For example, if your heart is no longer able to function, a machine can replace the heart function and keep you alive. Questions to consider:
 - Under what circumstances would you want life support?
 - For what duration?
 - Is there any circumstance in which you would not want life support?

- Intubation.** If a patient cannot maintain an open airway, a breathing tube can be inserted into the mouth and through the airway using a ventilator machine to help with breathing. Intubation can be a procedure that is done to delay death, or it can be done as a routine procedure to treat a curable condition. Question to consider:
 - Under what circumstances would you not want to be intubated, if any?

- Artificial Nutrition and Hydration.** When a patient is no longer able to eat and drink on their own, artificial nutrition and hydration can be given to keep the patient alive. Questions to consider:
 - Under what circumstances would you want or not want artificial nutrition and hydration to be administered to you?
 - For how long?

- Surgery.** Surgeries can be major or minor, depending upon the condition for which treatment is sought. Question to consider:
 - Under what circumstances would you not want surgery?

- Amputation.** Questions to consider:
 - Would you consent to having a limb fully or partially amputated?
 - Would your wishes be different depending upon which limb it was?



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- Medication.** Medication includes both prescription and non-prescription drugs or substances. Questions to consider:
 - Do you have any objections to any certain kind of medication?
 - Do you have any objections to how medication is administered, or for how long?
 - What if the medication has serious adverse side effects?

- Blood Transfusions.** Through the process of a blood transfusion, another person's blood is inserted into the patient's body. Question to consider:
 - Do you have any objections regarding a blood transfusion?

- Care Facilities & In-Home Care.** Care facilities include residential facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and continuum-of-care facilities that cover everything from independent living to nursing home services. Questions to consider:
 - Do you have a preference of one type of care facility over another?
 - Do you have a preference regarding the location of that care facility, the kinds of programs or services that are offered there, or the type of room?
 - What are your preferences about staying in your home and having in-home care?
 - How about cost?

Healthcare encompasses a vast array of procedures and treatments. Think about what you would want your Healthcare Agent to know about your healthcare preferences in the event you are unable to communicate those preferences to your Healthcare Agent. In addition to the above, are there any other preferences that you want known?