

If a patient under your care was suddenly taken very ill with COVID-19, how would you know what they want?



What is important to them?

What they would want in relation to their care and treatment?

What do they think about resuscitation or other treatments?

Who to contact including who they would want you to speak to on their behalf

Prepare to talk about realistic plans that would be available to the patient if they became unwell

In light of the current COVID-19 threat, timely, honest discussions regarding a person's preferences and priorities should they become unwell are paramount.

What can you do to help?

- **Think About It** –patients may have already been “thinking about” what is important to them in these uncertain times. Alternatively, their families may have been worried about what will happen. As a professional caregiver, you should also be thinking about what a patient would want you to do if they became unwell.
- **Talk About It** – allow time to talk with the patient, or their family or LPA, as appropriate. Understand, what is important to the patient and what would they want to happen, or not happen? At a time when some services are being rationed to those who are most likely to benefit, it is important to sensitively ensure that patients are realistic in what will be available to them if they become unwell.
- **Record It** –you should record any discussions that you have in accordance your organisational guidelines. Examples of Advance Care Plans can be found on Cheshire EPAIGE www.cheshire-epaige.nhs.uk The patient's involvement in decisions about their care and treatment should always remain a priority, recorded information should only be used to inform care and treatment if the patient is unable to make decisions for themselves.
- **Share It** - With the patient's consent the discussions that you have should be shared with those close to them so that they are prepared, and with other services e.g. the Ambulance or Out of Hours Services. Ideally, and where available this information should be coded and shared via EPaCCS.