

The Care Planning Act of 2015

Summary

*"Being able to say... 'We did it DAD's way', offers me great comfort. Because we had these important conversations, my Dad was able to maintain control of his life choices for his WHOLE life."*¹

When faced with serious illness, you want the freedom to control how you will live. The Care Planning Act will **help you get the care you want: no more, no less**. It offers a person-centered approach to pre-planning for care. It will help your doctor and your hospital understand the choices that you and your loved ones have made.

→ **Individual care planning and coordination of services**

- Creates a Medicare benefit called Planning Services for those with serious or life threatening illness, including team-based discussion of goals of care and values, explanation of disease progression, exploration of a relevant range of treatment options, and a documented care plan that reflects the individual's goals, values, and preferences
- Directs CMMI to conduct an Advanced Illness Coordination Services demonstration which will deliver wrap-around, home-based services to beneficiaries who need assistance with two or more progressive disease-related activities of daily living

→ **Quality metric, education and resource development**

- Directs HHS to develop quality measures that measure alignment between the individual's goals, values, and preferences, the documented plan, treatment delivered, and outcomes
- Increases awareness of care planning through the development of innovative communication resources
- Provides grants to develop materials and maintain a web site with information about advance care planning, portable treatment orders, palliative care, hospice, and planning services
- Directs HHS to include advance care planning information in the official Medicare & You handbook

→ **Portability and Documentation**

- Creates a default standard to focus providers on your treatment preferences when you are unable to communicate and your preferences are not recorded on a legally-enforceable document
- Requires healthcare facilities to assure that care plans made while an individual receives care are appropriately documented prior to discharge and sent to appropriate providers and facilities

→ **Restrictions and Requirements**

- Prohibits the use of funds in violation of the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997

¹ <http://theconversationproject.org/your-stories/the-diagnosis-prompted-the-conversation/>