

Advance Directives and Living Wills: A Medical Record Necessity

Do you know your patients' wishes if they and their families face a health crisis? We encourage you to ask your patients who are 18 years or older if they have advance directives or a living will and record the responses (yes or no) in their medical records. Be sure to keep a copy of the advance directives and/or living will in the patient's medical file.

When we perform annual medical record reviews to meet our regulatory responsibilities, this information is very important. During the review, we check to see if you have asked your patients about advance directives, including a living will, and if you have copies in their medical records.

Living Well is a program available to our members. It is designed to help patients with progressive illness think through and discuss advanced care and life planning. It is included as part of our Advance Care Planning Program offered to members in our commercial plans. Living Well is also offered as a standalone program to both commercial and Medicare members.

You can find more information about our Advance Care Planning program at floridablue.com by choosing **For Providers**, then **Tools & Resources**, and finally **Programs**.