

# COMPASSION

## IN DYING

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### SUPPORTING YOUR CHOICES AT THE END OF LIFE

#### **FACTSHEET - Common words and phrases**

This is a guide to some words and phrases you may hear when planning your care and treatment at the end of life. If you have questions or you are not sure about the meaning of something not on this list, contact Compassion in Dying.

INFORMATION LINE: **0800 999 2434**

**Advance Care Planning (ACP):** A plan for your end-of-life care which follows conversations with your healthcare team and can include an Advance Decision or details of your Lasting Power of Attorney

**Advance Decision:** A legally binding written document that you can use to set out your wishes for medical treatment in advance. Advance Decisions used to be called living wills.

**Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR):** An emergency procedure which may be used if your heart stops beating; for example – after cardiac arrest

**Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)/Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW):** The Welsh health and social care services regulator

**Carer:** Someone who provides unpaid care by looking after an ill, frail, disabled, or dying family member, friend or partner

**Coma:** A deep state of unconsciousness that means you cannot react to your environment or respond to people

**Comfort care:** Treatment that keeps you comfortable – for example, pain control

**Court Appointed Deputy:** Someone who is given the power to make decisions for you by the Court of Protection after you have lost mental capacity

**Court of Protection:** A specialist court that makes decisions and appoints people to make decisions for people once they have lost mental capacity

**Do Not Attempt Resuscitation order (DNAR):** This is an order that doctors can put on your notes to tell other healthcare professionals not to try to resuscitate you if your heart stops beating

**End-of-life care:** This is the common name for care in the last stages of life

**End-of-life care plan:** A plan for your end-of-life care which follows conversations with your healthcare team and can include an Advance Decision or details of your Lasting Power of Attorney

**Enduring Power of Attorney:** The old name for Lasting Powers of Attorney for property and financial affairs

**General Medical Council (GMC):** The independent regulator for doctors in the UK

**Intravenous feeding:** A method of artificial feeding where nutrients are given directly into the blood

**Lasting Power of Attorney for health and personal welfare (LPA):** A legal document that lets you appoint someone to make decisions about your health

and welfare if you lose mental capacity. LPAs can only be made through the Office of the Public Guardian

**Lasting Powers of Attorney for property and financial affairs:** A legal document that lets you appoint someone to make decisions about your property and financial affairs if you lose mental capacity

**Life-sustaining treatment:** Treatment that replaces or supports a body function that you could not survive without. For example, artificial ventilation if you could not breathe by yourself

**Liverpool Care Pathway:** A plan of care for patients in the last days and hours of life

**Living will:** The old name for an Advance Decision

**Mental Capacity/Competence:** The ability to make your own decisions and understand the consequences

**National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE):** The independent body that guides the NHS on promoting good health and treating illness. This includes recommending which medicines and procedures should be available on the NHS

**Office of the Public Guardian:** The government body that registers Lasting Powers of Attorney

**Palliative care:** End-of-life care that includes pain control as well as psychological, emotional and spiritual support for patients and their loved ones

**Palliative sedation:** Where heavy sedation is given, meaning you are unconscious until death

**Parliamentary Health Service Ombudsman:** The independent body that investigates complaints about the NHS

**Percutaneous endoscopic gastronomy (PEG) feeding:** A method of artificial feeding where nutrients are given directly through a tube in the stomach

**Persistent vegetative state:** A state of unconsciousness where there is no response from the brain but responses that do not rely on awareness may still work. A person in this state may still be able to breathe and move spontaneously

**Primary Care Trust (PCT):** Local bodies which manage dentists, GPs, pharmacists, NHS direct and NHS walk-in services. These will be replaced by Clinical Commission Groups in 2013.

**Preferred Priorities for Care (PPC):** A document that is used to record what is important to you during the last days, weeks or months of life. They are not meant for recording your treatment decisions and unlike Advance Decisions or Lasting Powers of Attorney, they are not legally binding

**Ventilator:** A machine which supplies air to your lungs if you are unable to breathe naturally

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