

Project Overview

The State of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Quality Institute are working on a program to educate individuals about the importance of creating advance directives about end-of-life decisions. The project includes:

- The ability for a healthcare provider, or individual, to upload advance directives directly to KnowMyHealthRI.riqi.org
- If an individual is also enrolled in CurrentCare, the advance directive will automatically be sent (electronically) into the individual's CurrentCare record
- After the pilot testing period ends in June 2019, there are plans to move forward with enhancements to KnowMyHealthRI.riqi.org and to grant access to other (**authorized**) providers and hospitals, to be able to upload and access advance directives with the purpose of honoring a person's wishes for end-of-life care.

Frequently Asked Questions *for Consumers*

Why should I participate?

Participating in this program will promote collaboration among healthcare teams and help individuals take action to improve their health, make informed decisions, and engage effectively and efficiently with their care teams and others (family, friends, caregivers) who may help care for them at the end of life by helping to:

- Make it more likely that your end-of-life wishes will be known and carried out, by giving providers access to your advance directive documentation
- Provide you with educational materials such as documents, flyers, videos to help you make informed decisions about your end-of-life choices
- Give you the tools and ideas for beginning the conversation about end-of-life care and to share your decisions with your care team and loved ones

What is an advance directive?

"Advance directive" is a general term for legal documents that allow you to plan and make your own end-of-life wishes known in the event that you are unable to communicate. Advance directives include:

- Living Will
- Healthcare Power of Attorney

For more information on each of these documents for the State of Rhode Island, visit the Rhode Island Department of Health's website for [End of Life Decisions/Advanced Directives](http://health.ri.gov/lifestages/death/about/endoflifedecisions/) at this website address:
<http://health.ri.gov/lifestages/death/about/endoflifedecisions/>

What is a Living Will?

A living will is a legal document that guides your family and healthcare team through the medical treatment you wish to receive if you are unable to communicate your wishes. *It does not appoint an 'agent' to make decisions for you.* According to your state's living will law, this document is considered legal as soon as you sign it and a witness signs it, if that's required. A living will goes into effect when you are no longer able to make your own decisions.

What is a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare?

A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care is a document that lets you name someone else to make decisions about your health care in case you are not able to make those decisions yourself. It gives that person (called your agent) instructions about the kinds of medical treatment you want.

Which types of documents can I upload to Know My Health myself?

You can upload any or all of the following:

- Living Will
- Healthcare Power of Attorney
- Other documents, such as Five Wishes

Do I need a lawyer to create an advance directive?

While you do not need a lawyer to fill out an advance directive, your advance directive becomes legally valid as soon as it is properly signed and executed. Requirements for advance directives may vary from state-to-state, so if you live in different states at different times of the year, you may want to look at the free advance directive forms available for your use on each state's website.

How can I begin to prepare my advance directive?

One of the best ways to start preparing your advance directives is to have a conversation with your doctor, family members and/or close friends. By completing advance directives, you are taking control about future healthcare decisions. Sharing your wishes for end-of-life care is critically important – for yourself, for those who love you, and for those who manage your medical care. There are many books and online resources that we've included in this document to help you get started.

What should I do with my advance directives once they are completed?

Share it! Don't lock it away in a safe deposit box - It's important to make your wishes known, so be sure to:

- Make copies of your (signed) advance directive documents for your proxy (agent), alternative agents, physicians, family, and/or lawyer.
- Contact your provider for details on how either your provider or yourself can upload your advance directive to [KnowMyHealthRI.riqi.org](https://knowmyhealthri.riqi.org)

How secure is [KnowMyHealthRI.riqi.org](https://knowmyhealthri.riqi.org)?

[KnowMyHealthRI.riqi.org](https://knowmyhealthri.riqi.org) is hosted and maintained on the same infrastructure of CurrentCare and RIQI's other products. RIQI has a HIPAA-compliant privacy and information security program in place, that includes policies and procedures, a provisioning review process, and other system safeguards in place to protect the data maintained on [KnowMyHealthRI.riqi.org](https://knowmyhealthri.riqi.org). For more information about the Privacy, Sharing, and the Terms of Use for Know My Health, please see the links at: [KnowMyHealthRI.riqi.org](https://knowmyhealthri.riqi.org).

Who will have access to my advance directive documents once they are uploaded to Know My Health?

Access to KnowMyHealthRI.rqi.org and CurrentCare will only be allowed for ***authorized*** staff at participating practices (to see advance directives for patients whom they are treating) and to participating patients (to see their own account). There is a provisioning process in place that manages who has access to KnowMyHealthRI.rqi.org and only users who are approved and agree to the Terms of Use of the system will be granted access.

Suppose I make changes to one of my advance directive documents?

KnowMyHealthRI.rqi.org allows you or your provider to designate any of the documents that are uploaded as either “active” or “inactive”. It is also required to enter the date that each document was *signed*, so the most current document is also showing in the list.

I’m enrolled in CurrentCare for Me – can I upload my advance directives to this account or to the regular portal at my doctor’s office?

Not at this time, however, if you are already enrolled in CurrentCare, once your advance directive is uploaded into KnowMyHealthRI.rqi.org, the same document will also be available to any of your providers who also use the CurrentCare Viewer, and to you via CurrentCare for Me.