# It's Time to Start a Conversation

Now is the time to consider how you want to be cared for when you have a significant health problem. By sharing your thoughts about end-of-life now, you can provide those you love with a great sense of peace, purpose, certainty and control over the future. These tools can help you start the conversation, consider the options and chart your personal path.

# **Questions to Consider**

## **Quality of Life**

On a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being very important and 1 not important to me, I rate these issues defining my quality of life:

	(Please circle one)				
Being able to recognize family and friends	1	2	3	4	5
Being able to communicate and be understood	1	2	3	4	5
Having the ability to think clearly	1	2	3	4	5
Being free of pain	1	2	3	4	5
Being free from symptoms most of the time	1	2	3	4	5
(nausea, diarrhea, shortness of breath, etc)					
Being able to eat and drink	1	2	3	4	5
Being able to control my bladder and bowel	1	2	3	4	5
Being able to live in my own home	1	2	3	4	5

## **My Prognosis**

If I was very ill and told there was little chance to live much longer, I would like to: (Please circle one)

Continue with all possible treatments and hope for a miracle to restore my health

Yes No Unsure

Be provided with medications to alleviate my pain and discomfort and be allowed to die naturally and with dignity

Yes No Unsure

If I were in a coma and doctors believed there was little hope for regaining consciousness, I would like to: (Please circle one)

Be kept alive as long as possible in hopes future medical advancements might restore my health

Yes No Unsure

Continue only treatments and care that will ensure my comfort and stop any treatment aimed at cure or prolonging my life.

Yes No Unsure



#### **Treatments**

If I should have a terminal illness, dementia, serious stroke or were in a coma, these are my choices for treatment:

	(Please circle one)			
Surgery	Yes	No	Unsure	
CPR to start my heart or breathing if either should stop	Yes	No	Unsure	
Medicine for infections (antibiotics)	Yes	No	Unsure	
Kidney dialysis	Yes	No	Unsure	
A respirator or ventilator to breathe for me	Yes	No	Unsure	
Food or water through a tube in my vein, nose or stomach	Yes	No	Unsure	
Blood transfusions	Yes	No	Unsure	

## At the End of My Journey

My last days are important to me and I want the opportunity to say: "I love you," "Thank you," and "Goodbye." On a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being very important and 1 not important to me, I rate these issues defining how I would like to spend my last days:

	(Ple	(Please circle one)				
At home	1	2	3	4	5	
In a hospital	1	2	3	4	5	
Surrounded by family and friends	1	2	3	4	5	
Free from pain and discomfort	1	2	3	4	5	
Being alert, even if I am in pain	1	2	3	4	5	
Having time with my pastor, rabbi, priest or other						
spiritual advisor	1	2	3	4	5	
Having time to express forgiveness, gratitude and love	1	2	3	4	5	

**Once you have completed this worksheet, please share your choices with your loved ones.** By giving them clear direction to help guide them through difficult decisions they may face, they will be better able to honor your choices and express their love. To further assist them you should complete the advance directive documents and provide your doctor and your loved ones with copies.



#### **Community Care Hospice** 1669 Rombach Ave. Wilmington, OH 45177

**Hospice of Central Ohio** 2269 Cherry Valley Rd. Newark, OH 43055

Ohio's Community Mercy Hospice 100 W. McCreight Ave., Ste. 400 Springfield, OH 45504

Ohio's Hospice of Butler & Warren Counties
5940 Long Meadow Dr.

5940 Long Meadow Dr. Middletown, OH 45005

**Ohio's Hospice of Dayton** 324 Wilmington Ave. Dayton, Ohio 45420

### Ohio's Hospice of Fayette County

222 N. Oakland Ave. Washington Court House, OH 43160

**Ohio's Hospice LifeCare** 1900 Akron Rd. Wooster, OH 44691

**Ohio's Hospice Loving Care** 56 South Oak St., P.O. Box 445 London, OH 43140

Ohio's Hospice of Miami County 550 Summit Ave. Ste. 101 Troy, OH 45373



Hamilton, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Knox,

Licking, Logan, Madison, Medina, Miami,

Warren, and Wayne counties.

Montgomery, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Richland, Ross, Shelby, Union,