



QUICK REFERENCE SHEET Levels of Care, Advance Medical Directives and Other Terms

By whom?

With whom?

When?

Levels of care (synonym: levels of intervention)

Expression of the values and wishes of a patient in the form of goals of care, resulting from discussion between the patient or his/her representative and the physician concerning the anticipated evolution of health status as well as medically-appropriate care options and their consequences, in order to orient care and guide the choice of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation decision or order

A document that records a person's wish not to be subjected to cardiopulmonary resuscitation or other emergency medical procedures delivered by first responders or other health professionals in the event of an arrest in circulation.

Advance medical directives

A document by which an adult who has the capacity to consent to care indicates in advance the types of medical care that he/she would accept or refuse to receive, in the event that he/she were to become incapable of consent. These wishes are constraining when applicable to a specific situation. Advance medical directives cover certain types of interventions in the following situations: end of life or severe and irreversible loss of cognitive function.

Mandate in anticipation of incapacity to consent to care

A written document by which a legally competent person designates another person to see to his/her welfare and affairs, in the event that he/she becomes incapable of consenting to care.

Other ways of expressing wishes

Other ways of expressing wishes exist, such as a living will, an informal note, or wishes expressed verbally or in written form by the person and placed in his/her medical record, etc.

Note: These different ways of expressing wishes can coexist and complement each other.





The objective of putting these documents into place is to insure **respect of a person's wishes** with respect to **medically-appropriate** care that is delivered to him/her.

	Levels of care	No resuscitation decision or order	Advance medical directives	Mandate in anticipation of incapacity	Other ways of expressing wishes
Usually initiated by	The physician or medical team		The person		The person
Determined by	A competent person or his/her representative		A competent person		A competent person
Determined with	 A physician		Two witnesses or a notary		Alone or with a witness
Determined when	A person is facing a health situation that is likely to significantly worsen in the foreseeable future		At any time		At any time
Does a registry for this type of document exist?	No; the document is placed in the medical record		Yes; the document can be recorded in the advance medical directives registry, or placed in the medical record	Yes; the document can be recorded in the registry of protective supervision	Non; ideally, the document should be made known to the care team

It is important to note that these documents do not replace **discussion** of wishes nor **obtaining consent** to care

Useful links for more information:

- sante.gouv.qc.ca/en/programmes-et-mesures-daide/loi-concernant-les-soins-de-fin-de-vie/
- www.curateur.gouv.qc.ca/cura/en/index.html
- www.cmq.org/home.aspx