



NEWS

ANTELOPE VALLEY'S
HEALTHCARE
NEWS RESOURCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL OFFERS FREE LECTURE ON LIVING WILLS AND ADVANCED CARE DIRECTIVES

(LANCASTER, CA – September 30, 2009) — Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) recognizes the importance of honoring our patients' wishes and respecting their beliefs. While the hope is that a patient will need very few advanced care directives, having those defined should something unexpected occur can help families cope.

"While it may be difficult to start a living will conversation, it is helpful for family members and caregivers as they seek to honor a patient's wishes," according to Stacy Brigham, Esq. "Understanding the legal aspects caregivers must follow will help you prepare a plan to ensure your wishes are honored."

Advance care directives include documenting your wishes as well as the types of special treatment you would want at the end of life such as diagnostic testing, surgical procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and organ donation. To begin creating an advanced care plan, discuss your wishes with your family and designate a healthcare agent. Should you be unable to make decisions about your care, this person can become your legal representative and speak on your behalf. Be sure to document your plan and wishes in writing and share this with your healthcare providers. Sharing a written document with your family as well as your healthcare agent helps everyone understand your preferences.

"Antelope Valley Hospital is hosting this lecture to educate the local community about the laws related to advanced care directives," said Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. "Respecting a patient's wishes is a top priority for AVH. The process is a lot smoother if a patient has a plan in place and a healthcare agent identified."

Ms. Brigham will discuss how to name an individual as an agent to make these health care decisions and the legal forms necessary to complete these directives at the

(-more-)

AVH / Advanced Care Directives

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AVH free health lecture on **Thursday, October 8**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at 44105 15th Street West in **conference room 15** on the 4th floor, in Lancaster. To reserve a seat, please call **(661) 726-6499** or send an e-mail to communityrelations@avhospital.org. Please leave your name, contact number, and number of guests attending the lecture.

For more information about Antelope Valley Hospital, visit our website at www.avhospital.org

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit www.avhospital.org or call 661-949-5000.

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