

Advance care planning (ACP) conversation for patients with dementia

- **Start the conversation early.** Ask the patient to engage with the people who will be making care decisions as the disease progresses.
- **Discuss what to expect with the progression of dementia.** Prepare for common problems of late-stage dementia (e.g., eating problems and pneumonia). Ensure safety for patients on the road and at home—see back panel for driving evaluation links.
- **Ask about the patient's treatment preferences,** including end-of-life care.
- **Document the ACP in writing.** Encourage the patient to have a living will, health care proxy, medical directives, and power of attorney.
- **Reassess patient needs and wishes when status changes** (e.g., a transition to a nursing facility).



Pharmaceutical Assistance
Contract for the Elderly

Balanced information for better care

These are general recommendations only; specific clinical decisions should be made by the treating clinician based on an individual patient's clinical condition. These materials were made possible by the PACE Program of the Department of Aging of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Links to references can be found at [AlosaHealth.org](https://www.alosahealth.org).

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Resources



For your practice

Advance care planning is billable. To learn more: bit.ly/Medicare_ACP
Pennsylvania Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form:
bit.ly/POLST_form



For patients and their caregivers:

Driving

- **Alzheimer's Association:** bit.ly/Alz_driving | 800-272-3900
- **AAA:** seniordriving.aaa.com
- **The American Occupational Therapy Association:** bit.ly/AOTA_driving
- **Eldercare locator:** eldercare.acl.gov | 800-677-1116
- **Pennsylvania Transportation Services:** gis.penndot.gov/transitmap



Caregiving

- **Alzheimer's Association:** alz.org/help-support/caregiving | 800-272-3900
- **Respite care:** bit.ly/Alz_respite_care
- **Pennsylvania Adult Day Centers:** bit.ly/PDA_Adult_daycare
- **Local Area Agency on Aging:** bit.ly/PDA_locator