Regardless of health status, all patients over 18 years of age should have an advance care directive in place. Providers may not discuss advance care planning during an office visit because of lack of time or discomfort with the topic. Patients often do not complete an advance care directive because of lack of interest, or the perception that their current health status does not correlate with advance care directive completion.

An advance care directive expresses patient treatment preferences and the types of care desired or declined (e.g., CPR, enteral feedings, intubation and mechanical ventilation) in writing AND appoints an agent to speak for them. This form maintains patient autonomy during periods of incapacity and at the end of life.

IEHP Health Education Department holds free monthly advance care planning classes for the community called “My Life, My Choice” at all IEHP Community Resource Center (CRC) locations. During the class, participants learn:

- The definition of advanced care planning;
- The benefits of completing an advance care directive;
- The difference between a physician’s order for life-sustaining treatment (POLST) form and an advance care directive form; and
- How to complete an advance care directive form (provided in class).

Providers can request Member enrollment via the secure Provider Portal (“Advanced Care Directive” course under Health Education). Members may register themselves through the IEHP Member Portal.

For information on IEHP CRC locations, hours of operations and schedules, please visit www.iehp.org > For Community > Community Resource Centers.

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at: www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Health Education Department at (866) 224-4347.