

**BABEL (Better Targeting, Better Outcomes for Frail Elderly) Advance Care Planning Intervention**  
**Pamphlet – Role of the Substitute Decision-Maker**

This pamphlet was designed as part of the BABEL Advance Care Planning project for nursing homes. Meant to be printed out and freely distributed to clients, it briefly describes the appropriate role of a person's substitute decision-maker(s). The pamphlet has three panels, so it can easily be printed on one side of a piece of paper.

*About being the  
SUBSTITUTE  
DECISION MAKER  
for your  
LOVED ONE in  
the nursing home*



**Advance Care Planning** includes conversations about the specific types of medical care a nursing home resident *may want to receive and may not want to receive.*

Within the limits of medical possibilities, it is the wishes of the resident that always matter.

It is legally required that residents who are capable be allowed to make these decisions themselves.

It is important for family (and sometimes others) to also participate in these conversations.

There may come a time when your loved one in the nursing home becomes incapable of making or communicating his or her medical decisions.

### **The Role of a Substitute Decision Maker:**

- Substitute Decision Makers speak for their loved ones when that happens.
- Your job as the Substitute Decision Maker is to tell the care team the decisions you believe your loved one would make, if your loved one was able to. NOT what YOU want done for your loved one.

## **This is about respecting the wishes and choices of your loved one.**

**Consider this:** If you ever become too sick to speak for yourself, you would want someone to faithfully communicate your wishes to your care team.

If you do not feel capable of faithfully communicating the wishes of your loved one, then it is best if somebody else is chosen as the Substitute Decision Maker.



Known previously as Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network, TVEE

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