

Step 2: Proxy Understanding of Your Personal Medical Preferences

If you have been asked to complete this simple 10-question quiz by a family member, friend or patient, please do so considering how YOU think he or she would respond to each question. As you consider each question, place their name in the blank space.

1. Imagine that _____ had Alzheimer's disease, which progressed to the point where he or she is not able to recognize or converse with your loved ones. When swallowing was very difficult, would _____ want to be fed by a tube?
a. Yes b. No c. I am uncertain

2. Which of the following does _____ fear *most* near the end of life?
a. Being in pain b. Losing the ability to think c. Being a financial burden on loved ones
d. Other _____

3. Imagine that _____ is now seriously ill and healthcare providers are recommending chemotherapy. He or she may experience very severe side effects, such as pain, nausea vomiting and weakness that could last 2-3 months. Would _____ be willing to endure the side effects if the chance of regaining his or her current health was less than one percent
a. Yes b. No c. I am uncertain

4. In the same scenario, suppose that his or her condition is clearly terminal, but the chemotherapy might give an additional six months of life. Would _____ want the chemotherapy even though it may have severe side effects (frequent pain, nausea, vomiting, and weakness)?
a. Yes b. No c. I am uncertain

5. If _____ were terminally ill with a very painful condition, would he or she want to be sedated, even to the point of unconsciousness, if it were necessary to control the pain?
a. Yes b. No c. I am uncertain

6. Imagine that _____ has moderate dementia causing mental confusion making it difficult to recognize and interact with friends and loved ones. He or she also has circulatory problems, which resulted in one leg being amputated because it developed gangrene. Now, the other leg develops gangrene and the doctor recommends amputation because the condition could be fatal. Would _____ want the operation? a. Yes b. No c. I am uncertain

Step 2: Proxy Understanding of Your Personal Medical Preferences Continued

7. Is it more important for _____ to: (a) have his or her specific treatment preferences followed at the end of life even if family members or friends disagree, or (b) have family and friends all in agreement and comfortable with whatever decision is made?
- a. Have specific preferences followed, even if there is disagreement
b. Have family and friends all in agreement c. I am uncertain
8. Imagine that _____ is physically frail and needs help with the most routine daily activities – dressing, eating, and personal care. He or she lives in a nursing home and his or her mind is fairly clear and capable most of the time. He or she has had pneumonia or other lung infections four times in the last year—each time having to be hospitalized for several days and given antibiotics through an IV tube. The next time _____ gets pneumonia, would he or she want aggressive antibiotic treatment again or just comfort care until death comes?
- a. Antibiotic treatment b. Comfort care only c. I am uncertain
8. Imagine that _____ is in a permanent coma and dependent on a tube inserted into the stomach for nutrition and hydration. Would it be important to _____ that decisions about his or her treatment be guided by particular religious beliefs or spiritual values?
- a. Yes b. No c. I am uncertain
10. If _____'s heart, kidneys, pancreas, lungs and liver could all be used in transplant operations to save lives, would he or she want to donate them at death?
- a. Yes b. No c. I am uncertain