

*Patient Decision Making Support and Services  
January 2019*

# Questions to Kick-Off the Conversation

- What is your understanding of guardianship?
- What is the role of the guardian?
- Why is understanding guardianship crucial to the protection of patient values and autonomy?
- What can we do from a proactive standpoint to support all of our patients as well as our most vulnerable ones?

# Proactive Interventions

## Orally Appointed Decision Maker

- The patient **orally** states they want someone to make medical decisions for the patient if he became unable to make decisions for her/himself
- **May not hold up in court**
- **May be disputed if other interested parties come into the picture**
- **May not be able to withdraw ANH or other life supports**

## Medical Power of Attorney (MDPOA)

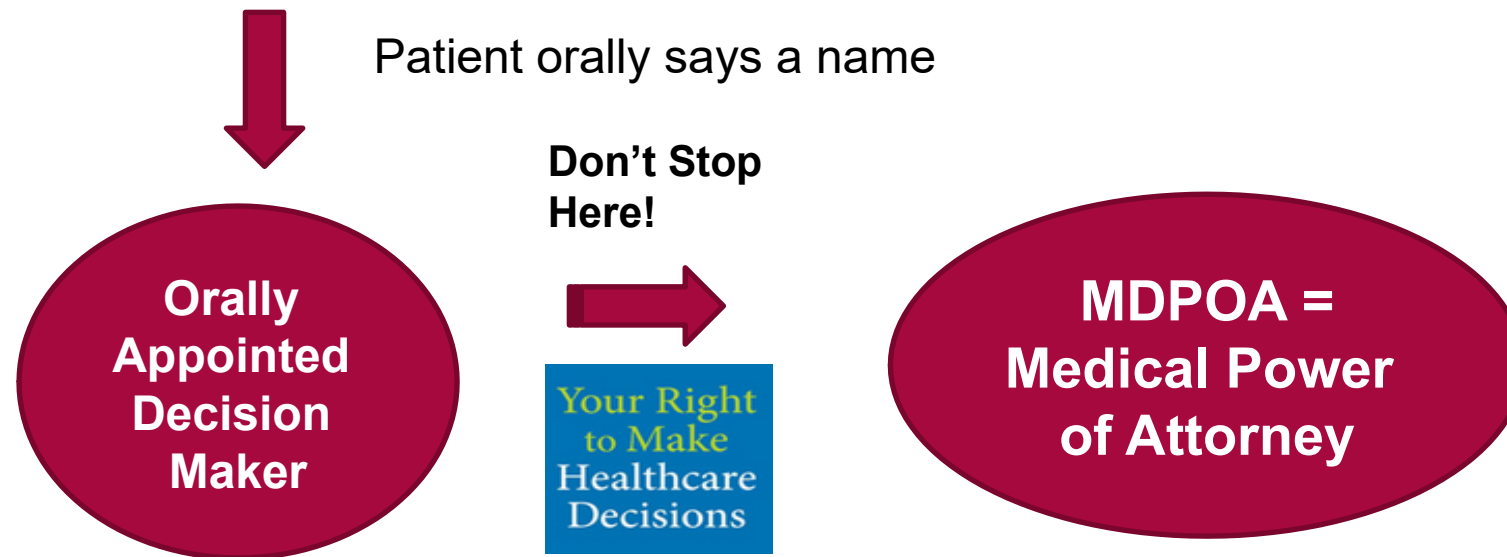
- Signed Document
  - Able to make medical decisions on behalf of the incapacitated patient as limited in the MDPOA document

## Medical Proxy Decision Maker

- Medical decision maker decided by consensus of “interested parties” if there was nothing obtained on paper earlier.
- Need a formal meeting of all “interested parties”

# Let's focus on getting a medical decision maker documented....

“If you ever get so sick or fuzzy that you cannot make medical decisions for yourself, who would you choose to make them for you on your behalf?”



Use the back page of this booklet to  
Help your patient complete a MDPOA

# Process for Patients Who Require a Guardian

- Early identification of patients who require a decision-maker
- When you think you've dug up all the information on a patient—DIG SOME MORE!
  - Variety of resources: internet search, CORHIO, CareEverywhere
- Extend support and resource information to families who are overwhelmed or intimidated by the process of caring for a loved one long term
- Tap into community resources available: Elder Law attorneys, private guardianship agencies, Guardianship Alliance, etc

# Complex Care For These Patients