



In our fast changing world of advancing medical technology, healthcare providers, patients and families alike are having a hard time staying ahead of the information and the choices patients face during serious and chronic illness. The **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)** was enacted with the goals of reducing costs and improving healthcare outcomes by shifting the system towards **quality over quantity** to streamline the delivery of healthcare. This places a greater importance on advance care planning.

Currently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) are acknowledging the importance of advance care planning. Specifically for hospice, they have created the Hospice Item Set (HIS), which is a standard set of items intended to capture patient-level data on each hospice patient admission. Current HIS items are used to calculate the six National Quality Forum (NQF) outcomes. One of NQF measures (NQF #1641) is **patient preference** - “**was the patient/responsible party asked about preference regarding the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)?**” However, the CPR question, along with other hard medical questions, gets asked much sooner than admission to hospice. In all hospitals and long term care facilities, a patient’s wishes regarding life-sustaining treatment need to be acknowledged.

How can I help you and your organization/agency? To better assist healthcare provider, patients and families with the hard discussions and decisions those facing serious and chronic illness experience, I created Nancy Joyner Consulting, P.C. My goal is to improve healthcare conversations regarding hard choices by increasing knowledge and clarity to define individual patient’s wishes.

Along with many presentations, I have published (and sold) my first in a series on medical discussions/medical decisions, *What if the Doctor Asks You About: CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)*. The booklet describes CPR in layperson’s terms and helps patients to better understand attempting resuscitation. Copies are [available here](#). If you would like to order more, have me come speak or provide workshops, please [contact me](#).