

# Goals of Care Designation

The care you want, wherever you are

*“Your doctor is trying to do the right thing... they just need to know what it is.”* — Dr. Charlie Corke, Intensive Care specialist

You are the expert in your own healthcare values and wishes. Having a Goals of Care Designation Order ensures healthcare providers provide treatment that is medically appropriate and right for you.

## What is a Goals of Care Designation (GCD)?

A GCD is a shorthand code designed to be recognized by healthcare providers in order to instantly know what type of care to provide.

A doctor or nurse practitioner writes your GCD as a medical order after speaking with you and/or your alternate decision-maker. The form your doctor/nurse practitioner completes is called the ‘GCD Order form’ which will be given to you.

## Who needs a GCD?

Not everyone needs a GCD. In general, a GCD Order is needed when your health changes or if you have a serious or life-limiting illness.

To find out if you need a GCD Order talk to your healthcare provider.

## Why is a GCD important?

By knowing and following your GCD, healthcare providers care for you in a way that is timely, medically appropriate, and aligns with your personal values and wishes. Your GCD also provides a way for care teams to communicate about some aspects of your care as you move between care settings.

## What do my healthcare providers need to know?

If you need a GCD it is important for you to be part of the discussions with your healthcare provider. It helps the healthcare team determine a GCD that is both medically appropriate and most in line with your values if they know:

- what does “quality of life” mean to you?
- your priorities if your health situation worsens
- if you have had discussions with those close to you about your healthcare wishes
- if you have completed a personal directive, named an agent.

## What do I do with my GCD Order form?

The completed GCD Order form should be kept in the Green Sleeve provided to you by your healthcare provider. When you move through the healthcare system the Green Sleeve should go with you so that healthcare providers always know your GCD.

## For more information:

[ahs.ca](http://ahs.ca) and search advance care planning