

## Patient & Family Information Series



### After Death Tasks

There are numerous tasks to complete after the death of a loved one and it can feel overwhelming. We believe that preparation before the death can have an effect on the grief process of family members in a positive way. Not only does the patient have the ability to make their wishes known, but families will have their loved one's desires documented, therefore not having to guess at what their loved one wanted. We understand that this process is not always possible prior to the patient's death.

The patient binder has the following worksheets available (pages listed) to help you in gathering information. We have included additional information here as a guide in after death tasks. Each individual is different and will have requests that are specific for their situation. We hope that the tips here will provide you with the knowledge you need moving forward. For additional support, we can refer you to your estate attorney or legal aid.

#### **Personal Planning Guide (page 31)**

This helpful guide includes details that are vital in planning for after death. This includes personal details, next of kin, and executor/personal representative information. Attached to this is the list of "advanced planning documents". This includes information about whether or not a document is completed and if it is, where it can be found.

#### **Vital Statistics Worksheet (page 33)**

The information contained in this worksheet can be used to communicate the information that is required for a death certificate. This is information that the funeral home will ask for as they prepare that document. Sometimes the details requested are known by the patient themselves, which is why we suggest for family members to gather this information prior to the patient's death.

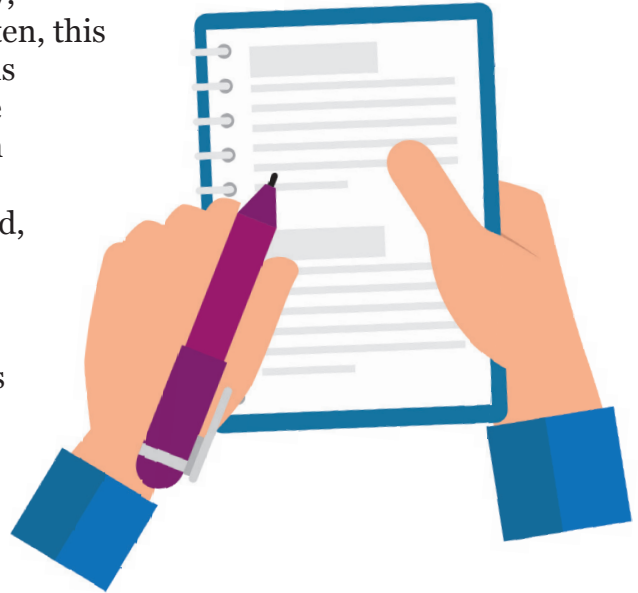
#### **Funeral Planning Worksheet (page 34)**

This document can help to identify how the funeral services are organized, per the preference of the patient or family members. It provides information and details to consider as you prepare for the service. You don't have to include all of the elements but there may be some there that you haven't considered. Remember that a funeral is a very individualized experience.

Your ANCORA Social Services/Bereavement Team is available to support you. Please reach out to them with any questions or concerns at 208-452-2672 OR 208-992-2672.

## Obituary Details (page 35)

Writing an obituary is a challenge that is often approached very purposefully to create a document that sums up the life our loved one lived. Some of our patients write their own obituary, saying what needs to be said from their perspective. Often, this task is completed by a family member or someone who is very close to the family. The obituary doesn't have to be completed by one person but can be a joint effort, which often is a very helpful process. The obituary is meant to announce and notify; announce that a loved one has died, and notify others about any services that will be held to honor the person. In addition, an obituary can share information about the person who died, their life, their experiences, their accomplishments, and the individuals in their life that were important to them.



How you structure your loved one's obituary is dependent on the writers preferences. The length of the obituary can vary from 50 words to 450 words. Checking with your local funeral home would provide you with any additional parameters you would need to know.

We have provided a basic obituary to help you get started. Of course, any additional details are yours to add.

## Example Obituary

(Insert name of loved one), (age), of (place that they resided) passed away on (date of death) following (cause of death). (Insert any personal details, ie. early life, marriage, children, work, life events, something they were proud of, etc.). They were preceded in death by (list of family close family members who may have died prior to them). They are survived by (list of family members who are still alive). (List service time, date, and location) or (list memorial ideas or suggestions).

## Important Items After Death (page 37)

This checklist is intended to provide a starting point to individuals managing the final wishes of loved ones. While not exhaustive, this can help you get on your way. If your loved one utilized the help of an attorney for estate planning, they can guide you as well.

In addition to the list in the binder, we have included some other considerations:

- ☐ notify additional family members
- ☐ address emotional needs of those involved (utilize the support of Ancora's Bereavement Team)
- ☐ cancel home deliveries (meals, medications, etc)
- ☐ arrange care for pets
- ☐ evaluate the need for additional support for a spouse or child of the deceased
- ☐ close up the house and belongings and discuss with estate attorney how to proceed

If you need further support, please call Ancora Hospice and speak to a Social Worker or Bereavement Specialist.