

SUGGESTIONS FOR LANGUAGE

Make sure you speak very *frankly* with whomever you will designate as your agent(s). Make sure they know you want nutrition (food), hydration (water), antibiotics, and breathing assistance if needed.

Please refer to the following sections for suggestions:

“WHEN MY DEATH IS IMMINENT” Suggested Language: *I want medication to relieve my pain, but only to the extent it is known to a reasonable medical certainty that it will not shorten my life. I do not wish treatments that will itself cause me severe, intractable, and long lasting pain, but will not cure me. I desire breathing assistance if needed, plus nutrition and hydration, and if my agent agrees, a feeding tube to be placed for my comfort.*

“WHEN I AM TERMINALLY ILL” Suggested Language: *None. I wish all treatment to be given except that which would cause severe, intractable pain, but will not cure me. If I am unable to ingest adequate nutrition, fluids and hydration, I direct that a feeding tube be placed and internal feeding begin. I desire breathing assistance if needed.*

“OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS” Suggested Language: *If I am incurably terminal and death is imminent and a reasonably prudent physician, knowledgeable about my case and treatment possibilities judge that I will live 48 hours or less, liquids and hydration may be limited but **NOT** withheld.*

NOTE: Many people do not understand that a surgically implanted tube can be nothing more than a simple I-V tube.