

Dear

A review of your clinical records indicate that you have previously provided us with a copy of your Advance Care Directive that outlines your choices and preferences for your future care and treatment, including your wishes for care at the end of your life.

As you would be aware, over the past few months many people in Australia and around the world have become ill with COVID-19, the illness caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Many people who have become unwell with COVID-19 experience cold and flu symptoms and recover fully on their own. However, some people, especially those who are older and/or have chronic health conditions, have become seriously ill and some have died.

Unlike conditions such as heart disease, cancer and dementia that may take years to reach a serious stage, COVID-19 can cause people to become suddenly and seriously unwell requiring intensive treatment. Unfortunately for many older people and/or those with chronic health conditions, the intensive medical treatments used to treat people with COVID-19 are not always effective and may not ensure your survival or enable you to get back the quality of life you had before the illness.

We appreciate this may be difficult to think and talk about. We would like to be able have a conversation with you about any concerns you may have about COVID-19 and to support you as you consider what care and treatment you would want if you became seriously ill from COVID-19. These are hard questions to answer. While we understand you have already documented your wishes and preferences for future care and treatment and these will remain unchanged until you advise otherwise, you may not have considered these in relation to becoming unwell as a result of a COVID-19 infection.

We would encourage you to speak with to arrange a discussion with you, your general medical practitioner and a member of our clinical team to discuss any questions, thoughts and concerns you may have. We would like to understand your worries and wishes and confirm the care and treatment that is right for you if you became seriously ill from COVID-19. You may wish to have a family member or a trusted friend to participate in the discussion.

We have provided some questions below that may assist you, your family member or trusted friend with your decision making. We would encourage you to make some notes so we can discuss your thoughts and any concerns you may have at this time when we meet with you.

1. At this time, what are you most worried about?
2. If you tested positive to COVID-19 what would you be most worried about?
3. If you became seriously ill with COVID19?
 - a) what would be most important to you?
 - b) what would you find helpful while you were unwell?
 - c) Would you want treatment aimed at comfort and care which is consistent with your existing Advance Care Directive or treatment aimed at prolonging your life?
4. Have you appointed a person/s (substitute decision maker) who can act on your behalf and make decisions about your care and treatment if you are unable to speak or make decisions for yourself?
5. Have you spoken to your substitute decision maker and or family or trusted friend about what you may want if you become seriously ill with COVID-19?

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and giving consideration to your care and treatment if you tested positive to COVID-19. Please contact
on _____ to arrange our discussion with you or if you have any questions in relation
to the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely