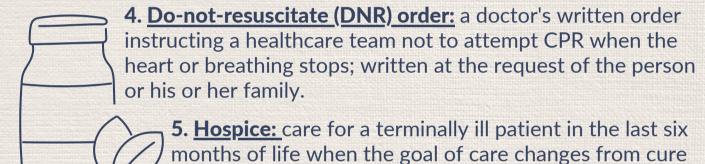
## End-of-Life Glossary

1. <u>Advance directive:</u> describes two legal documents (living wills and medical powers of attorney) which allow a person to give instructions about future medical care should they be unable to make medical decisions due to serious illness or incapacity.



- 2. <u>Living will:</u> a type of advance directive in which a person records his or her wishes about medical treatment should he or she be at the end of life and unable to communicate.
- 3. <u>Medical Power of Attorney:</u> a document that names a person's representative in making their medical care decisions if they are unable to do so for themselves.



to comfort; tailored to the patient's needs and wishes.

- **6.** <u>Palliative care:</u> a way of treating serious illness that focuses on the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of the patient; goal is to achieve the best quality of life available to the patient by relieving suffering and controlling symptoms.
- 7. <u>Life-sustaining treatment:</u> also known as life-support; treatments that replace or support a vital bodily function; can include breathing tubes, feeding tubes, IV's, kidney dialysis, and other treatments.
- 8. Withholding or withdrawing treatment: to stop lifesustaining treatments or discontinuing them after they have been used for a certain period of time; generally done when treatments are no longer helping to improve a patient's health, or the treatment is causing other adverse symptoms.