

How do you make a plan for the future?

The best way to make sure your family and friends know your wishes for future care is to make an Advance Care Plan.

This plan lets your family, your doctor, and other health care providers know what your wishes would be in a variety of circumstances.

Should there come a time when you cannot communicate or can no longer make decisions, your family or friends and/or health care providers can make treatment decisions based on your Advance Care Plan.

If you do not make your wishes known, your loved ones and health care providers will not know what care you would consider acceptable.

Information about advance care planning, including the **My Voice Guide**®, can be found online at:

- www.vch.ca/acp
- Search the internet for “Advance Care Planning” or “My Voice”

For more information about advance care planning, you can:

- Ask your doctor or another member of your health care team such as a social worker or nurse
- Email: advancecareplanning@vch.ca

Learning More About Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
'Cardio' means heart
'Pulmonary' means lungs
'Resuscitation' means to try and restart a person's heart beat and breathing when they stop (often called 'CPR')

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www.vch.ca

This pamphlet is meant to help you understand cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

What is involved in CPR?

CPR can include someone:

- pressing on the chest to pump blood through your heart to your body
- forcing air into your lungs to get oxygen to your brain
- giving medicines to try and restart your heart
- using electric shock from a machine to try and restart your heart

If your heart is restarted, you could be put on life support including intubation, ventilation, and drugs to support your circulation.

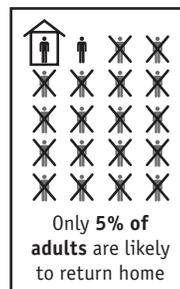
Should everyone have CPR?

CPR can work for adults who are fairly healthy, and only if others are there when it happens and someone starts CPR right away.

Please be assured, even if it is determined that someone will not benefit from CPR, staff will provide appropriate care for the patient, ranging from comfort care only through to assertive medical interventions, other than restarting the heart.

How well does CPR work?

If your heart stops for more than 5 minutes, there is a good chance you will have brain damage or die. Of the adults who have CPR right away, only 2 to 3 out of 20 adults (10 to 15%) are likely to survive. Only 1 out of 20 (5%) of those who survive will recover well enough to return home. The actions involved in CPR can cause broken ribs, and damage to the brain, throat, voice, lungs, and kidneys.



Why might CPR not be right for you?

CPR is not usually effective if it is not started right away. It is also not usually effective for:

- adults with medical conditions that have already caused damage to their heart, lungs, kidneys, or brain
- adults who are at the natural end of their life

Even if the heart is restarted, CPR will not improve any medical condition that caused the heart to stop.

What if your doctor has determined that CPR would not be beneficial for you?

You will continue to get the best medical care we can provide, including care to keep you comfortable. This includes treating pain and other symptoms. Our goal is to respect your wishes, provide the right care that would benefit you, and support you and your family during your illness.

How can you make your wishes known?

Talk with your doctor. Ask what would be best for you should your heart stop.

What is a Medical Order for Scope of Treatment (MOST) form?

Your doctor(s) recommend(s) what is right for you and records the decision for the rest of the team. Within VCH facilities this is recorded on a 'Medical Order for Scope of Treatment' (or MOST) form.

The MOST form gives your care team direction for:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) should your heart and breathing stop.
- Options for medical treatment. These can focus on comfort goals or be very aggressive.

For clients living in community settings, you and your doctor can document direction concerning CPR on a Provincial "No CPR" form.