



## Understanding Your Wishes

When you come to the hospital to receive care or services, you are asked by staff members to update your personal information.

This includes identifying your legal next of kin. Traditionally this person is your married spouse or your closest relative, whichever is most applicable. The next of kin line of succession is: 1) spouse, 2) adult children, 3) parents, 4) brother/sister. This is the person who can legally make decisions about your medical care if you become unable to do so.

In December 2000, changes were made to New Brunswick's Infirm Persons Act, which made it possible for you to name a person of your choice, other than your legal next of kin, to make some or all decisions about personal care on your behalf.

This allows a person to create a Power of Attorney for Personal Care for persons who do not fall under the explanations noted above. We hope that you have made provisions for this. We would advise that you should talk to your loved one or designated decision maker and to your doctor about the extent of treatment that you would like provided should you become unable to make your own decisions.

If you have any concerns regarding the information that we have requested, please let the Admitting Clerk or nursing staff know. Our staff will be very willing to meet with you to make arrangements to discuss the procedure to designate a Power of Attorney for Personal Care.