

ARE SOME CONDITIONS WORSE THAN DEATH?

This worksheet helps you to think about situations in which you would not want medical treatments intended to keep you alive.

Advances in medical technology are changing the way people make decisions on what types of treatment they desire. Choices offered today by modern medicine involve value judgments that may determine if a particular treatment is right for you. In some cases, treatments can keep people alive even if there is no chance you will improve. Ask yourself what you would want in the situations described below if treatment would not reverse or improve your condition.

DIRECTIONS: Circle the number from 1 to 5 that best indicates how you most feel about these situations.

- 1 -- Definitely want treatments that might keep you alive.
- 2 -- Probably would want treatments that might keep you alive.
- 3 -- Unsure of what you want.
- 4 -- Probably would NOT want treatments that might keep you alive.
- 5 -- Definitely do NOT want treatments that might keep you alive.

WHAT IF YOU ...

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| a. No longer can walk but get around in a wheel chair. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| b. No longer can get outside. – You spend all day at home. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| c. No longer can contribute to your family’s well- being. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| d. Are in severe pain most of the time. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| e. Are in severe discomfort most of the time (such as nausea, diarrhea). | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| f. Are on a feeding tube to keep you alive. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| g. Are on a kidney dialysis machine to keep you alive. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| h. Are on a breathing machine to keep you alive. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| i. Need someone to take care of you 24 hours a day. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| j. Can no longer control your bladder or your bowels. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| k. Live in a nursing home. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| l. Can no longer think or talk clearly | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| m. Can no longer recognize family or friends. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| n. Need to be sedated to control your pain | 1 2 3 4 5 |

**START THE
CONVERSATION**

