

Interpreting for Palliative Care – Spanish

Bilingual Glossary of Palliative Care Terms English-Spanish



<i>Term</i>	<i>English Definition</i>	<i>Spanish Equivalent</i>
advance directive ⁱ	An Advance Directive is a legal document that describes a patient’s wishes for care and preferred treatments. It also designates a Health Care Power of Attorney in the event that the person should become unable to make medical decisions for him or herself. The Health Care Power of Attorney is sometimes referred to as the Health Care Agent and is a legal decision maker for the patient.	directivas (f) médicas por adelantado declaración (f) de voluntades anticipadas
advance care planning	Is a process of thinking about, talking about, and sharing your wishes for care with your provider and loved ones and documenting those wishes in an Advance Directive.	planificación (f) de cuidado anticipado
artificial nutrition and hydration	Providing nutrition through a tube which is placed up the nose, down the throat and into the belly or via a surgical port directly to the stomach. Hydration is often provided via an intravenously directly to the blood stream	hidratación (f) y nutrición (f) artificial
autopsy	An examination of the body in order to determine the cause of death, involving dissection of the remains.	autopsia (f)
bereavement counseling	Counseling to help deal with on-going sadness regarding a loved one who has died or who is dying.	consejería (f) por duelo
brain death	A clinical condition in which the most basic functions of the brain are gone, including basic reflexes and control of breathing, so that life can only be maintained through artificial means.	muerte (f) cerebral
caregiver	A person who provides direct care for a patient. Caregivers can be professionals, such as Home Health Aides, or simply caring individuals such as family and friends.	encargado(m) del cuidado

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chaplain ⁱⁱ	A chaplain is someone who is trained to help people feel better when they are sick, hurt, or going through a hard time. They give support to patients, families, and hospital workers by listening and talking about things like hope and finding meaning in tough situations. Chaplains help everyone, no matter what they believe, even if they don't belong to a religion. Besides comforting people, chaplains can help with important decisions about end-of-life care, speak up for patients, and help arrange religious or spiritual activities.	capellán (m) consejero (m) espiritual
coma	A coma is when a person is very deeply asleep and cannot wake up or respond to anything because they are very sick, hurt, or have been poisoned.	coma (m)
code status	A patient's "code status" tells providers whether a patient should be resuscitated or not should cardiac or respiratory arrest occur.	clave (f) de estado del paciente
comfort care	Treatments that focus only on promoting comfort, not prolonging life artificially	cuidado (m) de confort
coping skills	The skills needed to emotionally handle difficult situations in life	destrezas (f) para afrontar a una situación difícil
coroner	A coroner is a government worker whose job is to find out how someone died if it wasn't from natural causes. Coroners are usually chosen by the community and sometimes they don't have special training about figuring out why people died.	oficial (m) de justicia que investiga los casos de muerte inexplicada
CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) ⁱ	CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, is a way to help someone whose heart has stopped and who isn't breathing. It has two main steps: first, you push hard on the chest to help move blood through the body, and second, you blow air into the person's lungs to help them breathe. This can be done by mouth-to-mouth or with special equipment.	resucitación (f) cardiopulmonar

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do-not-resuscitate order (DNR) ⁱⁱⁱ	A doctor's written instructions not to attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a specific patient in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest. The DNR order should be noted in a person's medical chart like any other medical order, and may be filed at hospitals, in private practice, with local emergency services, and with companies such as MedicAlert (which provides a bracelet to wear).	orden (f) de no resucitar
durable power of attorney ⁱ	A durable power of attorney is a paper you fill out that lets you pick someone you trust to make important decisions for you if you get really sick or hurt and can't decide for yourself. This person can help with things like paying your bills, handling your money, or doing things for you while you can't.	poder(m) legal
durable power of attorney for health care	A health care power of attorney is a paper where you choose someone you trust to make medical decisions for you if you are too sick or hurt to decide for yourself. This is different from a regular power of attorney, which lets someone take care of your money and bills. When doctors talk about a "power of attorney," they usually mean the kind that helps with health care decisions, not money.	poder (m) legal para cuidado de salud
feeding tube	A tube placed into the stomach or small intestine to provide nutrition to a person who cannot eat or drink.	sonda (f) de alimentación
funeral home	A funeral home is a business that helps families by getting a person's body ready for burial or cremation and helps organize the funeral service.	funeraria (f)
goals of care	Goals of care are what a patient or their family hopes will happen because of their medical treatment. Sometimes, the goal is to make a sickness go away completely. Other times, the goal is to help manage pain or help the person move better again.	objetivos del cuidado
healthcare agent (also called healthcare proxy in some states)	<p>A legal document in which an individual designates another person to make health care decisions for them if they cannot participate in medical decision-making, for any reason.</p> <p>This term also refers to the person who has been so designated. The healthcare agent has, in essence, the same rights to request or refuse treatment that the individual would have if capable of making and communicating decisions.</p>	<p>documento (m) legal nombrando a un apoderado para decisiones médicas</p> <p>apoderado (m) para decisiones médicas</p>

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health status	The condition of an individual's health.	estado de salud
heart/lung machine	A machine that artificially takes over the function of the lungs and heart.	sistema (m) de circulación extracorporeal
home health aide	A trained and certified healthcare worker who monitors a home-bound patient's condition and assists with personal hygiene and light housework.	asistente (m) del cuidado de salud en el hogar
hospice care ⁱⁱⁱ	Hospice care is a special kind of help for people who are very sick and probably won't get better. It is meant for people who might die in the next six months, according to their doctor. Hospice care focuses on making the person as comfortable as possible by helping with pain and other problems. It also supports the person's feelings, family, and spiritual needs. Hospice helps the person and their family understand what is happening and feel cared for during a difficult time.	programa (m) especial de cuidados paliativos para pacientes terminales cuyos doctores creen que van a morir dentro de seis meses
immediate family	A patient's closest relatives, usually considered to be parents, siblings, spouse and children.	familia (f) inmediata
intensive care unit (ICU) ⁱⁱⁱ	A specialized part of the hospital designed for care of the critically ill whose conditions require constant monitoring.	unidad (f) de cuidados intensivos
intubation ⁱ	Intubation is when a doctor puts a tube through your mouth and down into your windpipe so you can get air from a machine if you can't breathe by yourself. This is sometimes called "putting in an airway."	intubación (f)
life support	Equipment, material or treatment used to keep a seriously ill patient alive: e.g. artificial nutrition such as a feeding tube, mechanical ventilation, dialysis.	mantenimiento (m) artificial de la vida equipo (m) de prolongación de vida vida (f) artificial

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living will ⁱ	A 'living will' is an Advance Directive is a paper you write to tell doctors and your family what medical treatments you want if you get very sick and can't make decisions yourself. For example, you can say you don't want machines to keep you alive if you are not going to get better. You can also write down if you want pain medicine, antibiotics, water, food, or help with breathing or your heart if you ever need it. This paper also names the person you trust to be your Health Care Power of Attorney (Health Care Agent). See health care power of Attorney and health care agent.	testamento (m) en vida
long-term care	A healthcare facility that provides nursing care to patients over an extended period of time.	cuidado (m) de largo plazo
Medical Examiner	A qualified physician, often with advanced training in forensic pathology (the application of medical knowledge to questions of the law), who investigates deaths not due to natural causes. Medical examiners are usually appointed to the position.	médico (m) forense
metastasis	The spread of a disease (usually cancer) from the initial site to another part of the body.	metástasis (m)
morgue	In a hospital, an area where the body of the deceased is kept under refrigeration until the funeral home can arrange for transport to the mortuary.	morgue (f) depósito (m) de cadáveres
next of kin	A legal term referring to the person or persons most closely related by blood to an individual. While not related by blood, a spouse is usually included as "next of kin."	familiar (m) más cercano
organ donation	The act of giving permission for a patient's organs to be harvested after his death for transplantation into another individual	donación (f) de órganos

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persistent vegetative state (PVS) ^{iv}	A persistent vegetative state is when a person is alive but does not know what is happening around them or who they are. People in this state might open their eyes or seem to wake up and go to sleep, but they do not respond to anything or anyone. Unlike a coma, people in a persistent vegetative state are not expected to get better. Most people in this state live for two to five years, but some can live much longer with machines that help keep them alive. In the United States, there are about 15,000 to 35,000 people in a persistent vegetative state at any time.	estado (m) vegetativo persistente estado (m) de coma
POLST	Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment. POLST is a medical order form for seriously ill or frail individuals, valid outside of hospitals, that communicates the person’s medical wishes during emergencies. A POLST is filled out by a provider in conversation with the patient, takes effect immediately upon signing and is honored by emergency medical personnel.	órdenes (f) del proveedor para el tratamiento de mantenimiento de la vida
prognosis	This means how likely it is that someone will get better after being sick or hurt. Doctors look at what usually happens with that sickness or injury, and also think about anything special about the person’s case. If someone is very sick and may not get better, sometimes doctors use the word “prognosis” to talk about how much time they think the person has left to live.	pronóstico (m)
quality of life	Quality of life means the things that make someone happy, comfortable, or feel good about their life. It is about what makes life special or enjoyable for each person.	calidad (f) de vida
respite care	A program that either sends temporary caretakers to a patient’s home or allows a patient to be admitted to a healthcare facility temporarily, in order to give the principal caregiver a break.	cuidado (m) temporal de reemplazo
restlessness	The inability to stay still, often involuntary	agitación (f)
skilled nursing facility ⁱⁱ	A residential facility that provides professional nursing care around the clock, usually along with rehabilitation	centro (m) de enfermería especializada

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support	Actions and attitudes that help an individual or group. In palliative care, when providers talk about patient “support,” they do not mean financial help but usually emotional and logistical help.	apoyo (m)
surrogate decision-maker	<p>Technically, the legal definition of a "surrogate" is an individual other than a designated health care agent or guardian who is authorized to make health care decisions for a patient who lacks capacity to do so, according to Hawaii Revised Statutes § 327E-2. This can be a person designated by the patient or appointed by a physician if no agent or guardian is available. The surrogate is legally required to make decisions based on the patient's known wishes, values, or best interests</p> <p>However, medical professionals often refer to a “surrogate decision maker” as anyone who is making decisions for another person.</p>	sustituto (m) para la toma de decisiones
ventilator ⁱⁱ	A machine that takes over breathing for the patient, controlling the intake and expiration of air	respirador (m)
withdrawal of support	The removal of all forms of life support such as a ventilator, a feeding tube, or other treatment used to keep a seriously ill patient alive.	retiro (m) del mantenimiento artificial de la vida

ⁱ Definition from www.eMedicinehealth.com.

ⁱⁱ Definition from <http://www.mywhatever.com/cifwriter/content/66/4620.html>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Definition from <http://www.pbs.org/secondopinion/episodes/endoflife/medicalglossary>

^{iv} Definition from <http://www.dickinson.edu/endoflife/Glossary.html>

Kōkua Mau is a statewide coalition in Hawai‘i to improve care for those with serious illness. Our website is a resource that has non-biased, accurate information on advanced care planning, advance directives, POLST and options for serious illness care including palliative care and hospice care: <https://kokuamau.org/>

We have translations and materials for interpreters in 13 languages at kokuamau.org/languages/