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ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL TO HOST FREE LECTURE ON LIVING WILLS AND ADVANCE CARE DIRECTIVES

(LANCASTER, CA – June 6, 2013) — These days, planning for the unexpected has never been more of a priority. This is especially true of unexpected illness or injury. While the hope is that one would need very few advance care directives, having a plan in place gives patients the opportunity to exercise their right to make determinations regarding their medical care in advance in the event they become incapable of active participation in health care decisions. To help educate community members on how to create a living will or advance care plan, Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) will host a free health lecture on this topic on Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m.

“While it may be difficult to initiate a conversation with loved ones about a living will, it is an extremely helpful tool for family members and caregivers as they aim to honor the patient’s wishes,” according to Stacy Brigham, Esq., host of the upcoming lecture. “Understanding the legal aspects caregivers must follow will help you prepare a plan to ensure your wishes are honored.”

Advance care directives include documenting your wishes as well as the types of special treatment you would want at the end of life, such as diagnostic testing, surgical procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and organ donation. If you are ready to create an advance care plan, discuss your wishes with your family and designate a healthcare agent. Should you be unable to make decisions about your care someday, this person can become your legal representative and speak on your behalf. Be sure to document your plan and wishes in writing and share this with your healthcare providers. Sharing a written document with your family as well as your healthcare agent helps everyone understand your preferences.

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The free health lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, and will be held at the Antelope Valley Outpatient Imaging Building (AVOIC), located at 44105 15th Street West. The lecture will be held in Conference Room 15 on the 4th floor. To reserve a seat, please send an e-mail to communityrelations@avhospital.org or call (661) 726-6499. Please leave your name, contact number, and number of guests attending the lecture.

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 55 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. Antelope Valley Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For more information, please visit www.avhospital.org or follow Antelope Valley Hospital on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

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