



NEXT-OF-KIN LEGISLATION

Wisconsin hospitals and health systems work to ensure patients receive the...

Right Care



Right Place



Right Time



But there are barriers to that care in Wisconsin.

If you or a loved one become incapacitated and have not filled out a POA for health care, but need nursing home care, Wisconsin often relies on the courts to appoint a guardian to help with health care decisions.

Unfortunately...



Less than 1/3

of adults over 65 have a power of attorney form, some studies suggest.

A patient who no longer needs hospital care may



Wait 2-3 months

in the hospital for a court to appoint a guardian... before they can gain access to a more appropriate post-acute care setting

In nearly 9 of 10 guardianship cases, the court appoints a family member or loved one as the guardian.



That's

60-90 days

Not only does the patient wait - but so do others who are waiting for a hospital bed to open up.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Many states allow an incapacitated patient's spouse or next closest relative to help with health care decisions.

Let's fix this! Wisconsin Law Should Expressly:

Did you know?
Wisconsin is an outlier.

Many states have already addressed this.

Recognize

patients' family members or loved ones as surrogate decision makers.

Establish

a next-of-kin hierarchy in state statute.

Adopt

many of the limitations and protections already recognized in the current POA and other statutes.

Help make sure Wisconsin patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.