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Thursday, June 4, 2026

WI Act 115 “Next-of-Kin” Law Takes Effect

New resources available

With Wisconsin Act 115 officially taking effect beginning June 1, 2026, WHA has been working to ensure hospitals have the tools they need to utilize the new "Next-of-Kin" law effectively.

The Act creates a new pathway for hospitalized patients to gain access to prompt post-acute care in the event they are incapacitated and have not filled out a health care power of attorney.

To help aid with the implementation of the new law, WHA has updated its Next-of-Kin webpage. Included on the webpage is the new Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) landing page for Advance Directives which includes the necessary forms for clinicians and patient's representatives, and a webinar walking through the new act.

WHA's page also includes a summary slide deck and other materials that may be helpful for hospitals seeking resources.

WHA will continue to work with hospital partners as well as external partners to help make this new law a success going forward and will distribute additional information and resources as available and warranted.

Contact WHA Vice President of Federal Affairs and Advocacy Jon Hoelter with questions.

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EDUCATION EVENTS

Jun. 23, 2026

Rising Claims, Real Impacts: Wisconsin Hospital Risk Trends and What Leaders Can Do Now

Aug. 4, 2026

Seeing the Real Market: Using Claims Enhanced Intelligence to Make Better Strategy, Access, and Growth Decisions

Sep. 10, 2026

Caring for Wisconsin's Caregivers: 2026 WHA Healthcare Workforce Well-being Summit