

Health Care Agent IQ Test

How well does your agent or family know your health care wishes? This short test can give you some sense of how well you have communicated your wishes to them. Consider this a tool to promote better conversation and understanding.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1:

Answer the 10 questions using the **Personal Medical Preferences** questionnaire.

Step 2:

Ask your health care agent, alternate agent, and any family member, or close friend who may be involved in making medical decisions for you to complete **the Agent Understanding of Your Personal Medical Preferences**. The questions are the same. Don't reveal your answers until after the person completes the questionnaire. Those answering the questions should answer the questions in the way they think *you* would answer. (Try the same test with your doctor, too.)

Step 3:

GRADING – Count one point for each question on which you and your agent (or you and your doctor) gave the *same* answer. Their “Agent IQ” is rated as follows:

Points	Grade	
10	<i>Superior</i>	You are doing a great job communicating!
8 – 9	<i>Good</i>	Need some fine tuning!
6 – 7	<i>Fair</i>	More discussion needed.
5 or below	<i>Poor</i>	You have a lot of talking to do!

Agent IQ Test
Step 1: Personal Medical Preferences

Complete this questionnaire by yourself.

1. Imagine that you had Alzheimer’s Disease and it had progressed to the point where you could not recognize or converse with your loved ones. When spoon feeding was no longer possible, would you want to be fed by a tube into your stomach? *(Choose one)*

YES NO I am uncertain

2. Which of the following do you fear *most* near the end of life? *(Choose one)*

- a. Being in pain
- b. Losing the ability to think
- c. Being a financial burden on loved ones

3. Imagine that...

- You are now seriously ill, you cannot make health care decisions but if you are successfully treated, doctors think you will be able to regain the ability to make your own decisions, and doctors are recommending chemotherapy.
- This chemotherapy may have side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and weakness that could last for two to three months, though a skilled palliative care physician can help to manage most of these side effects. You may not be able to be around family or friends as much as you would want.

Would you be willing to endure the side effects if the chance of regaining your current health was less than 2 percent? *(Choose one)*

YES NO I am uncertain

4. In the same scenario, suppose that your condition is clearly terminal, but the chemotherapy might give you 6 additional months of life. Would you want the chemotherapy even though it has side effects? *(Choose one)*

YES NO I am uncertain

5. If you were terminally ill with a condition that caused much pain and prevented you from communicating your health care wishes, would you want to be sedated, even to the point of unconsciousness, if it were necessary to control your pain? *Note, however, that sedation for pain management is necessary for very few of all patients at the end of life. (Choose one)*

YES

NO

I am uncertain

6. Imagine that...

- You have moderate dementia causing mental confusion. About half the time, you recognize and interact with friends and loved ones on a simple level.
- You also have circulatory problems, which resulted in one leg being amputated because it developed gangrene. Now, the other leg develops gangrene and the doctor recommends amputation because the condition could be fatal.

Would you want the operation to remove your leg? *(Choose one)*

YES

NO

I am uncertain

7. Is it more important for you to: (a) have your specific treatment preferences followed at the end of life even if family members or friends disagree, or (b) have family and friends all in agreement and comfortable with whatever decision is made? *(Choose one)*

- a. Have specific preferences followed, even if there is disagreement.
- b. Have family and friends all in agreement.
- c. I am uncertain.

8. Imagine that...

- You are physically frail and you need help with most routine daily activities – dressing, bathing, eating, and going to the toilet.
- You live in a nursing home.
- Your mind is fairly clear and capable most of the time, and
- You have had pneumonia or other lung infections four times in the last year. Each time you had to be hospitalized for several days and given antibiotics through an I-V tube.

The next time you get pneumonia, do you want aggressive antibiotic treatment again or just comfort care until death comes? (*Choose one*)

- a. Antibiotic treatment
- b. Comfort care
- c. I am uncertain

9. Imagine that...

- You are in a permanent coma, and
- You are dependent on a tube inserted into your stomach for nutrition and hydration, for food and water.

Would it be important to you that decisions about your treatment be guided by particular religious beliefs or spiritual values that you hold? (*Choose one*)

- YES** **NO** **I am uncertain**

10.If your heart, kidneys, pancreas, lungs and liver could all be used in transplant operations to save lives, would you want to donate them at death? (*Choose one*)

- YES** **NO** **I am uncertain**

- END -

4. In the same scenario, suppose that his/her condition is clearly terminal, but the chemotherapy might give 6 additional months of life. Would *N* want the same chemotherapy? (*Choose one*)

YES

NO

***N* would be uncertain**

5. If *N* were terminally ill with a condition that caused much pain, would *N* want to be sedated, even to the point of unconsciousness, if it were necessary to control the pain? *Note, however, that sedation for pain management is necessary for very few patients at the end of life.* (*Choose one*)

YES

NO

***N* would be uncertain**

6. Imagine that *N*.

- Has moderate dementia causing mental confusion. About half the time, *N* recognizes and interacts with friends and loved ones on a simple level.
- *N* also has circulatory problems, which resulted in one leg being amputated because it developed gangrene. Now, the other leg develops gangrene and the doctor recommends amputation because the condition could be fatal.

Would *N* want the operation to remove the leg? (*Choose one*)

YES

NO

***N* would be uncertain**

7. Is it more important for *N* to: (a) have his/her specific treatment preferences followed at the end of life even if family members or friends disagree, or (b) have family and friends all in agreement and comfortable with whatever decision is made? (*Choose one*)

- a. Have specific preferences followed, even if there is disagreement.
- b. Have family and friends all in agreement.
- c. *N* would be uncertain.

