Choices and Champions℠
Roles and responsibilities of a healthcare agent

1. Your role is to make healthcare choices for me if and when I am not able to make those decisions for myself. My doctor will decide when I have lost the ability to make my own healthcare decisions.

2. I will give you a copy of my Health Care Power of Attorney document. I will list any special instructions on this document. I am counting on you to follow those instructions and respect my wishes. I know this may not be easy since my choices may be different from the choices you might make for yourself or what you think is best for me.

3. As my healthcare agent, you will be able to do many things for me, including:
   - talk with my doctors about my medical condition and treatment options;
   - look at my medical information;
   - make decisions about who provides my medical care;
   - admit me to and discharge me from a healthcare facility. This includes a hospital, mental health facility, assisted living facility or nursing home;
   - begin or stop life-prolonging measures;
   - give permission for an autopsy;
   - direct what will happen to my body after death; and
   - consent to or refuse any tests, procedures or surgeries.

   If I do not want you to have the authority for any of these duties, I have stated so in the Health Care Power of Attorney document.

4. I ask that you make treatment choices for me based on my goals and desires about what kind of care I should receive. It is very important that we take time to talk about these issues so you will understand my goals and preferences.

5. If I need medical care and I cannot make my own treatment decisions, please discuss my medical condition and treatment options with my healthcare providers. Please ask them for any medical information you need, and ask them to explain anything you don’t understand. The information they provide will help you to make informed decisions about my treatment.

6. If, at some later time, you decide that you can no longer serve as my healthcare agent, please let me know. Likewise, if I decide at some future time to name another person as my healthcare agent, I will let you know. Either decision will release you from any further responsibilities as my healthcare agent.