



# 103: Designated Advocate Documented on a Legally Recognized Document in the Inpatient or Outpatient Medical Record

## What is this measure?

This measure will track the percentage of patients whose inpatient or outpatient medical records include a legally documented and recognized patient advocate.

## What is a designated patient advocate?

A designated patient advocate is someone appointed by a patient to make important medical decisions on their behalf when the patient is unable to do so.

### This document may be known as:

- Durable power of attorney for health care (DPOA-HC)
- Health care proxy
- Advance Directive
- Registration with [MI Peace of Mind Registry](#)
- Five Wishes

## Requirements:

The declaration must be in writing, signed by the patient, and **witnessed by two adults**.

### Witnesses **CANNOT** be:

- Family members
- Patient's doctor
- The proposed patient advocate
- Employees of a health facility or program where the patient receives care

## How does having a designated patient advocate impact patient outcomes?

- **Improves communication and care:** A patient advocate ensures the patient's needs are met by supporting them in navigating the system, connecting them to needed resources, and advocating on their behalf to health care teams.
- **Reduces family conflict and supports patient wishes:** A patient advocate promotes care that aligns with the patient's values, while helping to minimize family disagreements and emotional stress during challenging times.



Order the Five Wishes guide for free at [moqc.org/resources/printed-resources/](https://moqc.org/resources/printed-resources/)

## Why is this measure important?

- A designated patient advocate plays a key role in supporting both the patient and the medical team by making informed decisions that honor the patient's wishes.
- A designated patient advocate is especially helpful when family members who haven't been involved in the patient's care disagree with a plan that the patient and medical team have already established.

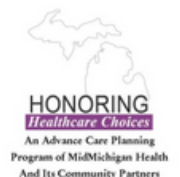
## What is included in this measure?

- **Numerator** = All patients with a legally designated patient advocate documented and signed by **two witnesses** in their inpatient or outpatient medical record. There are no exclusions.
- **Denominator** = All patients. There are no exclusions.
- MOQCLink question: "Is there documentation of a patient advocate on a legally recognized document in the inpatient or outpatient record?"
  - Responses = "yes" or "no".

## Where can abstractors find this information?

- Search options available in some EMRs.
- Media or document tabs in some EMRs, documents may be scanned.

## A Guide to Completing Your Designation of Patient Advocate Form



Printed and prepared from MiMichigan Health and Planning Collaborative

## QUESTIONS?

<https://moqc.org/>  
[moqc@moqc.org](mailto:moqc@moqc.org)

