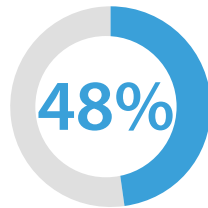


Documenting Wishes for Medical Care Helps Older Adults with Serious Illness Feel Like Their Wishes Are Followed and Their Family Members Know What They Want

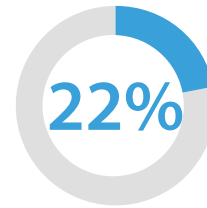
Among family members of older adults with serious illness...

60%

report that their **loved one has a document describing their wishes** for medical care



know where it is



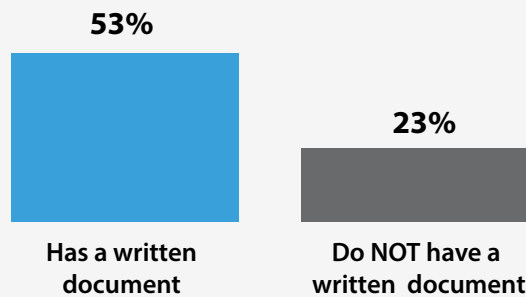
have referred to it



Nearly all who have referred to it say it was helpful

Family members of older adults with serious illness **are much more likely to say they know exactly what sort of medical care their loved one wants if they have a written document** describing their wishes than if they don't.

% of family members of older adults with serious illness who say they know "exactly" what their loved one wants



Older adults with serious illness and their family members **are more likely to say their wishes are being followed if they have a document describing their wishes for medical care** than if they don't.

% saying wishes of older adults with serious illness are "very" closely followed

Has a written document



Does NOT have a written document



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Serious Illness in Late Life Survey, 2017

NOTE: For this survey, those who are seriously ill are older adults (65+) who have at least one of several chronic conditions and report functional limitations due to a health or memory problem.

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Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.