



# **FACT SHEET**

## **END OF LIFE ISSUES**

### **FOR DEMENTIA PATIENTS**

- 1. Dementia is a progressive disease that kills the brain.**
- 2. Most older patients understand fatal illnesses and want control over their care.**
- 3. Families must prepare for terminal care while the patient is still healthy.**
- 4. Advance directives such as living wills afford patients the opportunity to make choices.**
- 5. Families must discuss issues in advance to avoid conflicting instructions to medical teams.**
- 6. Doctors will use all means available to treat patients when families cannot agree on a plan of care.**
- 7. End-stage Alzheimer patients deserve the care and comfort afforded by hospice services.**
- 8. Most end-stage dementia patients do very poorly when placed on life support machines.**
- 9. Dementia patients may experience pain and deserve appropriate pain medication.**
- 10. Most Alzheimer patients will choose dignity and respect over longevity.**

*For more information, call the  
DEMENTIA EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM - 1-800-451-5679*