Attleboro, MA – Despite recent gains in public awareness of the need for advance care planning, studies indicate that most Americans have not exercised their right to make decisions about their healthcare in the event that they cannot speak for themselves.

The National Healthcare Decisions Day, Sunday, April 16, will help Americans understand that making future healthcare decisions includes much more than deciding what care they would or would not want; it starts with expressing preferences, clarifying values, identifying care preferences and selecting an agent to express healthcare decisions if patients are unable to speak for themselves.

The National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.
According to Kathy Trier, Executive Director and CEO, “Community VNA is committed to increasing awareness of the benefits of advance care planning so that community members will be familiar with how to obtain and complete a healthcare power of attorney and/or living will, and will be able to talk to others about their decisions.”

According to the Pew Research Center

- 71% of Americans have thought about their end-of-life treatment preferences,
- 95% have heard of a living will, but
- only 29% had a living will.

Similarly, according to a study conducted by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, only 26.3% of respondents had an advance directive.

“Community VNA staff are available to answer questions for those who want to learn about advance care planning, to assist with completing advance directives and to honor those wishes when they become clinically relevant,” Trier said.

About Community VNA

Community VNA has been dedicated to enhancing health, wellness and quality of life for more than 100 years, providing a range of services, including: Home Health Care, Hospice Care, Palliative Care, Private Care, Adult Day Health Care, Alzheimer’s Disease Care, as well as Lifeline services and annual Elder Dental Clinics.

Community VNA has been awarded 2016 Home Care Elite Status (ranked among the top 25% of home health care agencies nationwide) marking the sixth year of this recognition. This recognition is based on publicly available performance measures in quality outcomes, best practice implementing patient experience, quality improvement and consistency, and financial performance.

For more information, visit www.communityvna.com, or Like Us on Facebook.

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