

# Glossary of Terms

**Acute illness:** In medicine, describing a disease as acute denotes that it is of short duration and, as a corollary of that, of recent onset.

**Advance Directives:** An advance healthcare directive, also known as a living will, personal directive, advance directive, medical directive, or advance decision, is a legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves because of illness or incapacity. In the U.S. it has a legal status, whereas in some countries it is legally persuasive without being a legal document.

**Caree:** A person receiving or registered to receive medical treatment.

**Caregiver:** A family member or paid helper who continually looks after a child or a sick, elderly, or disabled person.

**Carer:** A Carer is anyone, including children and adults who look after a family member, partner, or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem, or an addiction and cannot cope without their support. The care they give is unpaid

**Chronic illness:** Chronic diseases are defined broadly as conditions that last 1 year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both. Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death and disability in the United States.

**Elder Care:** Elderly care, or simply eldercare, is the fulfillment of the special needs and requirements that are unique to senior citizens. This broad term encompasses such services as assisted living, adult daycare, long-term care, nursing homes, hospice care, and home care.

**Estate Planning:** Estate planning is the process of anticipating and arranging, during a person's life, for the management and disposal of that person's estate during the person's life, in the event the person becomes incapacitated and after death.

**Flexible Savings Plan:** A flexible spending account, also known as a flexible spending arrangement, is one of a few tax-advantaged financial accounts, resulting in payroll tax savings.

**Health Savings Plan:** A health savings account is tax-advantaged medical savings account available to taxpayers in the United States who are enrolled in a high-deductible health plan. The funds contributed to an account are not subject to federal income tax at the time of deposit.

**Living Will:** An advance healthcare directive, also known as a living will, personal directive, advance directive, medical directive, or advance decision, is a legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves because of illness or incapacity. In the U.S. it has a legal status, whereas in some countries it is legally persuasive without being a legal document.