

Supplementary Appendix

This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Supplement to: Silveira MJ, Kim SYH, Langa KM. Advance directives and outcomes of surrogate decision making before death. *N Engl J Med* 2010;362:1211-8.

Online Appendix: Survey questions used to collect data about variables of main interest.¹

Variable	Question to Proxy
Living will	<i>Did [FIRST NAME] provide written instructions about the treatment or care [she/he] wanted to receive during the final days of [her/his] life?</i>
Preference for all care possible	<i>Did these instructions express a desire to receive all care possible under any circumstances in order to prolong life?</i>
Preference for limited treatment	<i>Did these instructions express a desire to limit care in certain situations?</i>
Preference for comfort care	<i>Did these instructions express a desire to) keep [her/him] comfortable and pain free but to forego extensive measures to prolong life?</i>
Required decision-making at the end of life	<i>Did any decisions have to be made about the care and treatment of [FIRST NAME] during the final days of [her/his] life?</i>
Decision-making capacity	<i>Was [FIRST NAME] able to participate in decisions about [her/his] medical care during the final days of [her/his] life?</i>

¹ For all questions shown, respondents were given the same choices: Yes, No, Don't know, Refused, or Inapplicable.

Actual decision-maker	<i>Who was the main decision-maker?</i>
Outcome of all care possible	<i>Did those last decisions involve a desire to give all care possible unconditionally in order to prolong life?</i>
Outcome of limited treatment	<i>Did those last decisions involve limiting care in certain situations?</i>
Outcome of comfort care	<i>Did those last decisions rest largely on keeping [FIRST NAME] comfortable and pain free without taking extensive measures to prolong life?</i>
Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare	<i>Did [FIRST NAME] make any legal arrangements for a specific person or persons to make decisions about his care or medical treatment if he could not make those decisions himself. This is sometimes called a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare.</i>
Appointed decision-maker	<i>Who had that authority?</i>
Applicability of living will	<i>Were these instructions applicable to the actual situation?</i>
Problems applying living will	<i>Did any problems come up in trying to follow these written instructions?</i>