Congratulations! You have completed a major part of planning for your future care. But wait, there’s more…

Make It Legal
To make your Power of Attorney for Health Care legal in Wisconsin, 2 people must watch you sign it and then they also sign it, too. (NOTE: The dates need to match!) These 2 people are known as your “witnesses” because they are watching you sign your document and stating that you are “of sound mind and body” at that time. Do not notarize this document.

Witnesses MUST be:
- At least 18 years of age
- NOT one of the people you listed as a health care agent
- NOT your family member or relative (by blood, marriage, domestic partnership or adoption)
- NOT your health care provider (doctor, nurse, etc.) directly serving you at this time
- NOT an employee of your health care system (UNLESS they are a social worker or chaplain)
- NOT directly financially responsible for your health care
- NOT aware that they entitled to or have a claim against your estate

Depending upon your situation, witnesses for you may be:
- Friends
- Neighbors
- Co-workers
- People from your faith community or church
- Workers at your bank or lawyer’s office (Please call ahead.)

Keep your original document in a safe place that can be accessed by others in an emergency - NOT in a safety deposit box!

Get Copies to Your…
- **Health Care Agent(s), Family, and other Support People**
  - Give each of the people you chose as your Health Care Agents a copy of this document
  - If you think they should have it, give family, friends, and others you trust a copy, or scan and email it
  - Talk to your family and loved ones about your wishes, and ask about their wishes, too

- **Doctor and Health Care Team**
  - In case of an emergency, your document should be easy to find. Your doctor will put your document in your electronic medical record so it can be used if needed.
  - You can:
    1. Bring a copy to your next appointment or it off at your doctor’s office,
    2. Submit it through your online patient portal
    3. Mail or fax a copy to your health care system

Reminders
- Keep ALL pages of your document together and include them when you make copies (even if you didn’t fill out “optional” pages)
- Update your document at least every 5-10 years, if you have a new diagnosis, or a decline in your health
- If you get divorced (and your former spouse was your health care agent), your document becomes null and void and you need to complete a new document