

Announcement

June 5, 2020

FOR ELDERS

1. We are asking the coordinator of the body of elders to ensure that all field service group overseers review the following reminders with all members of their group.
2. Since the treatment of severe courses of COVID-19 disease may include intensive care treatment, we would like to give the following recommendations or reminders:
 - a) Please carry your completed DPA Card with you at all times
 - b) If you wish to receive assistance by an elder (in the function of “pastoral care”), please indicate it clearly on your DPA Card and communicate this immediately upon admittance to the hospital. Otherwise visits might not be possible.
 - c) If you have formulated instructions in your DPA Card regarding intensive care treatment (e.g. resuscitation measures, machine ventilation, artificial coma, etc.) or possibly end-of-life decisions, please specify clearly whether these instructions should also apply in the case of intensive treatment due to COVID-19.
3. If you make changes to your DPA Card, it is advisable, either to fill out a new DPA Card or to date and sign the existing one again.

APPLICABLE FOR AUSTRIA ONLY:

4. A *legally binding* DPA Card may not be subsequently amended by the author alone. As a short-term option, it is recommended that treatment instructions (as in point 2.c above) be recorded on a separate sheet, dated and signed, and enclosed with the DPA Card. Medical personnel are then required to at least *consider* these treatment requests. It is not legally required to obtain prior medical and legal advice for these amendments.
5. If, however, you wish to subsequently change or supplement individual contents of the DPA Card *with binding effect*, you must seek qualified medical advice and establish the DPA Card in the presence of a legally authorized person, as you needed to when you initially issued your DPA. In the current situation (COVID-19 pandemic) this will in many cases be difficult to arrange for in a timely manner. Therefore, the above-mentioned possibility of a supplementary enclosed signed sheet should be taken into account, at least for the time being.