How do I register the LPA?
The form for registering the LPA is available from the Office of the Public Guardian, together with details of the registration fee. The LPA cannot be used until it has been registered which can take up to 10 weeks.

Can I change my mind?
Yes, you can cancel your LPA even after it is registered if you have the mental capacity to do so.

Is there any advantage in making a personal welfare LPA, rather than an Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment?
An Attorney can respond to health care needs as they arise and therefore this option may be considered more flexible than an Advance Decision.

Where can I go for further advice and support?
Trinity’s Patient and Family Support team can offer guidance. You can call them on 020 7787 1000.
Would you like to appoint somebody to make health care and/or financial decisions on your behalf, should you lack the capacity to make these decisions for yourself in the future? If so, you need to consider setting up a Lasting Power of Attorney. It is often helpful to submit the paperwork as soon as possible, as the process can take a little while.

What is a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?
There are two different types of LPA:
1. A personal welfare LPA is for decisions about health and personal welfare.
2. A property and affairs LPA is for decisions about financial matters.

An LPA allows you (the donor) to choose someone (the Attorney) to make decisions on your behalf. See the next page for details of when an Attorney can act.

Can I choose more than one Attorney?
Yes, provided that they are over 18 and not declared bankrupt. You will need to decide whether they should act together or independently.

What if I already have an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)?
Any existing EPA, made and signed before October 2007, will continue to be valid and can continue to be registered, but this kind of Attorney will have no authority to make personal welfare decisions on your behalf. You should consider making a personal welfare LPA if you would like someone else to be able to make these types of decisions on your behalf.

How do I start?
Most solicitors offer this service. Costs vary – expect to be charged an hourly rate to complete the forms and around £82 for registration. Depending on circumstances, some people may be exempt from paying the registration fee. Forms and further guidance are available from the Office of the Public Guardian, PO Box 16185, Birmingham, B2 2WH, tel 0300 456 0300. They can also be downloaded at www.justice.gov.uk/forms/opg

Can I make an LPA without engaging a solicitor?
Yes, but you must read the guidance leaflets provided with the forms carefully, so that you understand the purpose and legal consequences of making an LPA. Bear in mind that an LPA cannot be used until it has been registered with the Office of Public Guardian which can take up to 10 weeks.

Can my LPA Attorney refuse life-sustaining treatment on my behalf?
Only if you specify that you are giving your Attorney(s) this power.

Do I need to pay my LPA Attorney(s)?
Attorney(s) are entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. You should record any decision you make about payment in the LPA.

Who needs to know that I am making an LPA?
Once you have filled in Part A of the form, an independent person must fill in the certificate in Part B to confirm that, in their opinion, you are making the LPA of your own free will and that you understand its purpose and powers. Your LPA cannot be registered unless the certificate is completed.

You can name up to five people to be notified when an application to register your LPA is made. If you choose not to name anyone you will need two certificate providers under Part B.