IDENTIFYING FINANCIAL OPTIONS WORTH EXPLORING:

- **Does the patient own property?**
  - **Is there meaningful equity that might be made available?**
  - **Are the on-going costs (e.g., taxes, insurance, maintenance) affordable?**

- **Does the patient have a life insurance policy that could be a source of cash?**
  - **For a detailed review of life insurance policies please visit www.DignityResources.com or review the Dignity Resources questionnaire entitled "Understanding My Life Insurance Policy".**

- **Can the patient reduce or eliminate some of their expenses?**
  - **Being able to reduce or eliminate expenses can be as much of an asset as cash in the bank. As such, it is important to evaluate what expenses can be removed from your budget. In addition to more obvious expense reductions, we recommend considering the following:**
    - Are there discretionary expenses that could be eliminated or deferred?
    - Can the patient eliminate their life insurance premiums by notifying my insurance company and qualifying for a "**disability premium waiver**" (if the policy has this provision)?
    - Can the patient eliminate their mortgage payment by setting up a "reverse mortgage"?
      - **This is a special option only available to people 62 and older. However, it is a major financial decision. Anyone considering this option should consult a professional financial advisor prior to making any commitments. For more information about reverse mortgages please consult our website at *www.DignityResources.com*.**

- **If the patient has investments, what are the potential tax liabilities on any growth or gains if these investments are sold?**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER TOPICS, CONTACT DIGNITY RESOURCES AT:

♦ (877) 563-2100 ♦ www.DignityResoures.com ♦

- **Does the patient have retirement accounts that could be used prior to retirement?**
    - ***For more information about types of retirement accounts and when to use them, please consult our website at www.DignityResources.com. If you are considering using a retirement account, your should always consider the following:***
        - **What are the tax consequences for using retirement savings?**
        - **What are the potential penalties for early withdrawal?**
        - **What are the exceptions for the penalties?** (i.e. health insurance payments, emergency loans, college tuition, first time home purchase, financial emergencies, etc.)
        - **Were the contributions to these accounts made with pre-tax or post-tax dollars?** If contributions were made with pre-tax dollars, withdrawals will generally be subject to income tax and can increase the tax bracket for any other income earned in the same calendar year.
        - **Should the patient wait until the next calendar year to tap into these accounts in order to qualify for a lower income tax bracket?**
        - **Are the patient's debts such that they may have to declare bankruptcy?** (Retirement savings are generally protected from bankruptcy proceedings)? Retirement resources should be used last (and after bankruptcy) if a bankruptcy filing is likely.
        - **Will I need to save my retirement accounts for my retirement?** Will my spouse need these funds for their retirement?

- **Does the patient have family, friends, or a religious or charity organization that is willing and able to provide immediate funds in the form of either a donation or a loan against a life insurance policy?**

- **With any major financial decision, Dignity Resources ALWAYS recommends that you consult a financial professional who can outline all of the affects and implications of a decision prior to making a commitment.**