Advance Care Planning (ACP) is a voluntary process of communication between patients, families with healthcare providers. ACP results in shared decision-making based on patients’ values & goals and promotes patient autonomy resulting in patient-centered care. Advanced Directives include a medical power of attorney (MPOA), living will, and an Out of Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (OHDNR) form.

**Background**

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Nurses Code of Ethics (2015) with Interpretive Statements states that “Nurse should promote ACP conversations and must be knowledgeable about the benefits and limitations of various Advanced Directives (AD).

**Objective**

A quality improvement (QI) project was initiated by the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to determine if the ACP discussion promoted

- Increased completion of AD
- Change in the resuscitation status of the hospitalized patients
- Completion of AD and/or OHDNR form in the outpatient clinic

**Methods**

From December 2018 to March 2019, 40 patients (20 hospitalized and 20 outpatients) without a scanned AD in EHR at admission/clinic visit were approached by the APRN.

A face-to-face ACP discussion and review of ADs was performed with patients and their family members by the APRN. After the discussion, a social worker was consulted to assist with AD completion.

**Results**

AD completion increased from 5% to 65% in inpatient and 0% to 40% in the outpatient setting. A change of code status increased from 15% to 25% in the inpatient setting. OHDNR increased from 0% to 40% in inpatient and 0% to 40% in the outpatient setting.

**Conclusion**

ACP is a team-based approach and nurses play a key role in patients’ care.

Nurses are in a unique position. Their relationship with patients can help them to promote ACP discussions.

Additionally, nurses can work in tandem with APRNs and physicians to advocate for and promote ACP.

**References**


A review of the electronic health record (EHR) of patients in Investigational Cancer Therapeutics (ICT) revealed an opportunity to increase ACP conversations with completion and/or scanning of AD documents.