

Am I Dying? - Advance Directives

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Background

- Health care providers are uncomfortable speaking to patients about advance directives.
- Lack of education may be a contributing factor to this.
- Some nurses feel like it is the role of physicians to ask patients about ADs, despite spending the most time with patients.
- As per the Patient Self Determination Act of 1990, hospitals are required to ask, document, and provide education on advance directives

PICO

- For nurses, does an educational session on the importance and documentation of advanced directives (AD), compared to current practice, increase the number of documented advanced directives?

P - Nurses in the hospital setting

I - Educational Session for nurses regarding advanced directives

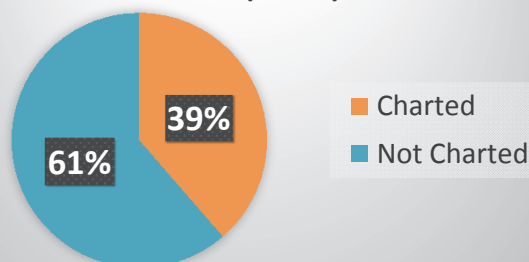
C – Current Practice vs. Educational Session

O – Increased number of documented advance directives

Evidence

- There is a growing aging population in the United States with an increase in the prevalence of chronic disease among adults (Rao, et. al, 2014).
- Despite aging and health issues, the majority of American adults do not have advanced directives (Kroning, 2014).
- ADs are associated with lower levels of Medicare spending, a lower likelihood of in-hospital deaths and increased hospice use in regions characterized by higher levels of end-of-life (EOL) spending (Rao, et. al, 2014).
- Professional literature reveals a definite lack of AD education provided to nurses and patients, which directly affects end-of-life care received by patients (Kroning, 2014).

Advance Directives Documented on Admission 8/18-12/18



Implementation

- Initial survey to obtain information regarding current documentation practice of advanced directives amongst our nurses.
- Another survey to determine nurses current knowledge of advance directives and where to find resources about advance directives
- Poster presentation, flyers and e-mails to educate nurses on the importance of obtaining and documenting advanced directives as well as where to find education regarding advance directives

Next Steps

- A follow up survey to determine if there was an increase in the documentation of advanced directives
- Another follow up survey to determine if there was an increase in knowledge about advance directives and where to find information regarding advance directives

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