

Advance care planning in the residential care setting: Current practice and opportunities for improvement in practice

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Overview of presentation

- Definitions and aims of study
- Overview of methods
- Current practice
- Opportunities to improve practice

Advance care planning

The process of exploring and communicating values and treatment preferences in advance of when healthcare and lifestyle decisions need to be made on behalf of the person

Aims of study

- To ascertain current practice of advance care planning in the residential care setting
- To explore how the RACFs and Area Health Service might contribute to improvements in practice

Overview of methods

- Qualitative methodology
- 41 out of 66 RACF managers in South Western Sydney
- Sample representative of high and low care; facility size; and ownership base
- Semi-structured interviews – recorded and transcribed
- Content and thematic analyses
- More details available in full report

Area Health Service can

- Develop unified policies and procedures across all hospitals
- Start ACP process in hospital and via ACATs
- Provide outreach service to RACFs
- Engage GPs more in ACP process
- Improve end-of-life care in hospitals
- Provide public education around ACP
- Provide education to health and residential care staff around ACP

In closing

- RACFs vary in their approach to ACP across a continuum of practice
- Most do not take a particularly systematic approach
- Many think there is room for improvement
- The approach to ACP by the Area Health Service has been minimalist and fragmented
- Improvements can occur through a collaborative approach that develops informational resources, guidelines and systems across care settings