

Title: Increasing Advance Care Planning in Acute Care Nurses: Have You Had the Conversation?

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Statement of the Problem: Nurses often do not complete their own advance directives (ADs), making it challenging for them to model this behavior in end-of-life conversations with patients.

Purpose: To create an educational intervention that increases nurses' knowledge of ADs, increases the rate of completion of their own ADs, and identifies demographic barriers to completing ADs.

Background: Only 26.3% of the US adult population has completed an AD, even though less than half of adults will be able to make decisions for themselves at the end of life (Rao, 2014). Nurses are in a unique position to see the ramifications of not having ADs. Therefore, they should be knowledgeable about ADs and serve as role models for their patients.

Methods: An educational intervention for nurses employed in two medical/surgical units at Denver Health Hospital and Authority reviewed the patient self-determination act, types of ADs, laws surrounding specific AD types, how to have a conversation about ADs, who to have the conversation with, and how to place ADs in the electronic health record. Pre- and post-surveys were developed to identify participant demographics, assess knowledge of ADs, and assess attitudes toward ADs. Attitude questions were adapted from the ACP-9.

Results: The pre-survey was completed by 53 nurses. Eighty-eight nurses participated in the educational intervention, and, to date, the post-survey was completed by 16 nurses. Analysis of pre- and post-

surveys (N=16) shows that the level of knowledge and attitudes about ADs improved. There was no correlation among nurse demographics, knowledge and attitudes, and AD completion.

Conclusions/Clinical Implications: Nursing staff expressed a desire for more education around end-of-life conversations. Next steps will be to modify the educational module (remove data specific to this project) and speak to the Education and Research department in order to assign this hospital wide.

- Rao JK, Anderson LA, Lin F-C, Laux JP. Completion of advance directives among U.S. consumers. *American journal of preventive medicine*. 2014;46(1):65-70.