

Week 10: Advance Care Planning in the time of COVID-19

Session Information
<p>Session Topic: Advance Care Planning in the Time of COVID-19</p> <p>National Expert Presenter(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathleen Unroe
COVID-19 Content: Advance Care Planning in the Time of COVID-19
<p>Presentation Title: Advance Care Planning in the Time of COVID-19</p> <p>Session Description: This session describes how to prepare for advance care planning including preparing for conversations with residents/families, identifying documents, and respecting resident preference. It also provides strategies for evaluating goals of care both at the nursing home and in the case of hospitalization. This session will also describe the POST program and its impact on the care for COVID-19 patients.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe current evidence regarding COVID-19 and end-of-life care Discuss special considerations related to advance care planning and COVID-19 Identify tools to support person-centered care during COVID-19
<p>Required Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video: Advance Care Planning <p>Supplementary Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video – Stephanie Anderson: Advanced Care Planning Video – Kathleen Unroe: ACP Tools & COVID-19 Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) COVID-19 Response Resources Hub AHCA and NCAL: Compassionate Care Amidst the COVID-19 Crisis
Quality Improvement: Moving to Action
<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share successes and challenges Identify one or more ideas to try Plan for trying a new idea
<p>Required Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement Questions Facilitation Framework

Activity:

- Plan and execute on prioritized change ideas

Discussion**Guided Questions**

- Has your facility established a process to review goals of care when considering hospitalization?
- Does your facility have a process to ensure transfer of advanced care planning documentation when residents are transferred to another facility?
- How has your facility engaged caregivers in these conversations, what has been different in these conversations amid the pandemic?
- What are the ideas that interest you from this presentation? What processes would you need to adopt or adapt?

Sample Case & Case Questions

Maggie has been a certified nursing assistant (CNA) caring for Mrs. Hatfield for two years at River Valley Nursing Center. Six months ago, Mrs. Hatfield was diagnosed with lung cancer. Her overall health has declined slowly over the past few months, and she requires more assistance during the day to walk up and down the halls, eat well, and participate in her favorite activities.

Last week, Mrs. Hatfield tested positive for COVID-19. Based on her overall health and prognosis, she was enrolled into the nursing home's hospice program. Maggie noticed that Mrs. Hatfield seems to get more short of breath between breathing treatments (inhalers). Maggie asked the nurse if perhaps Mrs. H. would do better with regularly scheduled inhalers instead of just 'as needed' treatments. For weeks, no medication changes were made. Finally, Maggie mentioned the idea to the hospice nurse, who had the order changed. Within a few days, Mrs. Hatfield was less short of breath between treatments, could walk farther with assistance and could enjoy activities for longer periods of time.

Maggie was pleased that someone had listened to her idea. While providing medical assessments or treatment recommendations is beyond a CNA's scope of practice, including CNAs in the conversation can help guide decisions which may benefit residents.

- What does this example illustrate for you? Have you experienced a similar situation, either as a CNA, as a nurse or other healthcare worker?
- Do you believe that CNAs have helpful information to contribute to the care team, even though they are not licensed or regulated as professionals?
- Is there one thing that you could do, starting tomorrow, to encourage more teamwork at your nursing home, to include CNAs more in advance care planning?