



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

F O U N D A T I O N

Abstract of Study Supported by a Resident Research Grant in 2014

Voice your Choice: The Impact of Group Visits on Completion of Advance Health Care Directives (G1401RRG)

Principal Investigator: Natasha Bhuyan, MD

Mentor: Jason Leubner, MD

Institution: Banner Good Samaritan Family Medicine Center

Abstract

Future health care planning group visits with an interprofessional care team will be held every three months in an urban outpatient family medicine center in Phoenix, AZ. The interprofessional care team will include a geriatrician or palliative care physician, a resident, and an expert social worker. Specific high-risk patients and their surrogate medical decision makers will be invited to participate. Topics covered at this proposed group visit will include discussions about a medical power of attorney (MPOA), living will, code status, ventilator use, organ/tissue donation, and palliative care – along with tailored individual discussions pertaining to specific disease trajectories (blood transfusions, dialysis, artificial nutrition/hydration). The curriculum will be guided by The Conversation Project and Aging with Dignity's Five Wishes in collaboration with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

The main outcome measured will be documentation of Five Wishes Advance Directives in NextGen, an electronic medical record (EMR). This documentation will include: 1.) an identified MPOA, 2.) life-sustaining treatment wishes, and 3.) a scanned copy of the entire Five Wishes document into NextGen. In addition to documentation in the EMR, patients will be given an Advance Directives Wallet Card that states their MPOA and where copies of their directives are held.

Longer-term data that will be collected will include number of hospitalizations, length of hospital stay, utilization of hospice services/palliative care, and patient satisfaction. We expect to use this pilot data to implement the group visits system-wide throughout Banner Health and examine the long-term impact on cost. While there are studies looking at increasing documentation of advance directives in the outpatient setting⁴, there is no research specifically on the impact of group visits on completion rates. The ultimate goal is for every patient to have advance directives – the group format may be the most successful method. Our results will be submitted for publication to journals specific to family medicine and geriatrics. We would also like to present our research at a practice improvement conference (STFM or NAPCRG).