

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Advance Care Planning and Re-setting Goals of Care in Nursing Homes - Part II

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
Thursday, April 3, 2020
Webinar

Part II

COVID-19's Impact on Accelerated ACP and GoC discussions: Virtual tech options to document and share conversations

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HOST and FACULTY

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Global Impact and National Crisis

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Devastating Effects

Impact of Physical Distancing/Separation
Threat to Intimacy and Integrity
Insidious nature of contagion
Vulnerability of our Population

What can we do?

What ought we do

How can we help?

Caring Conversations® in a Pandemic

Linda Ward

ACP during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Goals for Advance Care Planning

- Map out plans for future care
- Best before a crisis
- Encourage conversations with family and loved ones.
- Clarify diagnosis, prognosis and life expectancy
- Educate
- Identify individual's values

Medical Orders

- Use ACP conversations as a tool to inform discussions about medical orders.
- Address Code Status
- Address Medical Interventions
 - Desired
 - Helpful/Harmful (Risk/benefit)
 - Full, Selected and Comfort
- [Additional Orders](#) –COVID specific
- Ventilation
- Nutrition

Facts about COVID-19

- Serious health threat to older adults and frail (Age will likely be factor)
- 3x more contagious than influenza
- 10x more lethal than influenza
- Symptom amelioration - No curative option, care is supportive
- High risk for close proximity
- Virus not a bacteria, no vaccine
- Prophylaxis still under development
- Testing helps with epidemiology and tracking
- Death is due to respiratory failure, secondary to interstitial pneumonia.

Evidence

- **CPR**
 - Survival rate about 17% in-hospital.
 - Survival rate 7.5% outside hospital (community setting)
 - Survivors of CPR in long term care <1%, most die within 120 days.

Mechanical Ventilation

- Short term effective (trauma),
- Long term high morbidity/mortality risk for target group
- Questionable benefit with explicit low-tech death preference

Components of the Goals of Care Discussion

- Introductions
- Emotional pulse/empathize
 - Emotional will not be able to listen to the cognitive
- Clarify purpose meeting
 - Define why recording or documenting
 - Discuss importance
 - Add this is about planning for future medical care ***because of COVID19.***

Crisis Standards Impact

- Hospitals and physicians will need to balance individual needs of each patient and larger needs of community.
- Decision to not institute aggressive rescue treatment likely extant - ethically allowable as withholding and withdrawal of treatment subject to crisis standards
- Difficult for residents/families to understand limitations
- Allowing for “natural death” seems imposed.

Virtual Options for accelerated discussions

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Tools and Resources

[CAPC COVID-19 Response Resources](#)

[COVID Ready Communication from VitalTalk](#)

[POLST and COVID-19](#)

[Working with Families Facing Undesired Outcomes \(SWHPN\)](#)

Tools and Resources

[A pragmatist's advice for Nursing Homes](#)

[A decision aid for patients considering life support at a time of COVID-19](#) Univ of CO

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Questions?

THANKS for all you are doing!

For resources go to www.practicalbioethics.org

STAY WELL

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