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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John G. Carney, MEd, President and CEO, CPB

Jeff Zucker, et.al. – MyDirectives and ADVault
Global Impact and National Crisis
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
  o Desired
  o Helpful/Harmful (Risk/benefit)
  o 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
  o Survival rate about 17% in-hospital.
  o Survival rate 7.5% outside hospital (community setting)
  o Survivors of CPR in long term care <1%, most die within 120 days.

Mechanical Ventilation
  o Short term effective (trauma),
  o Long term high morbidity/mortality risk for target group
  o 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
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

Caring Conversations
Questions?
THANKS for all you are doing!

For resources go to www.practicalbioethics.org
STAY WELL

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