



Michigan Quality Improvement Consortium Guideline

Advance Care Planning

This guideline assists practitioners in engaging adults in a discussion of goals, preferences, and priorities regarding patient care at different stages of life. The guideline recommends tools and interventions to address Advance Care Planning across the patient population. Individual patient considerations and advances in medical science may supersede or modify these recommendations.

For this Population:	Recommendation
Patients aged 18 and over, in any stage of health	<p>Relevant topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Encourage the patient to make his/her goals, preferences and choices for care and treatment known both verbally and in writing. ◆ Promote early conversations with family in a non-crisis situation, including cultural sensitivity. ◆ Discussion should include family members, the surrogate decision-maker, and others who are close to the patient. ◆ Any individual can start the conversation (patient, family, physicians, nurses, behavioral health providers, social workers, clergy, trained facilitator, etc.). ◆ Evidence-based training in advance care planning is recommended for any person facilitating ACP conversations. ◆ Review the patient's goals and preferences for end-of-life care and advance directives at least annually. ◆ Help the patient identify a surrogate decision-maker, with consent. <p>Key elements of Advance Care Planning:</p> <p>Encourage the patient to discuss their preferences and care plan with the surrogate, family member, spiritual counselor and others.</p> <p>Use digital health tools/videos to facilitate family discussion and individual decision-making¹.</p> <p>Incorporate the patient's goals preferences and choices into the Treatment Preferences portion of the Advance Directive².</p> <p>Help the patient identify a surrogate who would make decisions on their behalf if they did not have decision-making capacity.</p> <p>Encourage the patient to complete an Advance Directive (including Healthcare Power of Attorney and Patient Advocate Role Acceptance).</p>
Patient with New or Established Diagnosis of a Serious Illness	<p>With a significant change in prognosis, work with the patient to update his/her advance directives, giving consideration to specific potential scenarios.</p> <p>Plan can include information such as starting or stopping treatment, symptom control with palliative sedation.</p> <p>The facilitator should have experience with/knowledge of the patient's specific condition (e.g. CHF, cancer).</p>
Patients whose death in the next twelve months would not be surprising	<p>A Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST³; Michigan MI-POST⁴) form in those for whom death within 12 months would not be surprising.</p> <p>Consider using the POLST tool to address the patient's specific requests for end-of-life care.</p> <p>Guidelines can address: artificial nutrition and hydration, CPR, Do Not Resuscitate, Do Not Intubate and other issues.</p> <p>Make the Advanced Directive and POLST accessible throughout the health system, Emergency Department, EMS companies, nursing homes, and provide a hard copy, with a date, to family and surrogate decision maker.</p> <p>Place a copy of the Advance Directive documenting the designation of a surrogate/decision maker, patient's values and beliefs and goals for end-of-life care, and POLST, in the health record and in retrievable electronic format when available (follow the laws in your state).</p> <p>If patient has limited life expectancy, consider using the POLST tool to address the patient's specific requests for end-of-life care.</p>

¹[Up to Date Patient Education: Medical Care During Advanced Illness](#)

²In Michigan, the only legally recognized advance directives are Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPOA) and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR). Living wills are not legally recognized in Michigan.

³[Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment](#)

⁴[Honoring Healthcare Choices Michigan](#)

Levels of evidence for the most significant recommendations: A = randomized controlled trials; B = controlled trials, no randomization; C = observational studies; D = opinion of expert panel

This guideline lists core management steps. It is based on the Institute of Medicine Dying in America, Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life Key Findings and Recommendations 2014; NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Palliative Care, Version 2.2011; Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Paradigm; and Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Palliative Care health care guideline, Updated November 2013; Advance Care Planning Decisions (<http://www.acpdecisions.org/>); Annals of Oncology Clinical Practice Guidelines; MI-POST Executive Summary; Advance Care Planning: Ensuring Your Wishes Are Known; Dying in America Institute of Medicine.