

Effect of Educational Pamphlet on Advance Directive Completion Rates

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Advance directives (AD) are documents that provide a statement of a person's wishes about medical treatment including a living will and power of attorney. This document provides caregivers with a clear set of instructions on the medical preference of patients in case they are unable to speak and decide for themselves. Normally, surgical patients are asked if they would like to complete an AD at the Pre-Anesthesia Consultation Clinic (PACC). However, many patients decline the offer and decide not to complete an AD. Thus, there is overall a low percentage of patients who have AD document completed. This study analyzes the AD completion rates of two different CCF PACC units over past several months. In this study, an educational pamphlet was designed and created to be presented to patients to inform them about the benefits of having an AD on file. Patients were presented with the pamphlet in waiting areas and in their exam rooms prior to being asked if they would like to fill out an AD. This was done to increase the AD completion rates at the two PACC units. The educational pamphlets will continue to be presented to patients at PACC units in an effort to increase AD completion rates.