Abstract

Advanced care planning (ACP) has been an area of increasing interest in recent years but less than one-fourth of the population has had a conversation about ACP. Unique barriers exist to ACP in the primary care setting and assessment and removal of barriers is crucial to increase overall utilization.
Advanced Care Planning (ACP): decisions about the healthcare one wishes to receive in a medical crisis that focuses on values and beliefs

Polling from Americans states that upwards of the majority of patient would like to discuss ACP with their physicians but only 17% have actually had a conversation

Recent discussions around end of life care have occurred due to the Affordable Care Act and the COVID-19 pandemic

ACP has been studied in specific populations but only recently has been researched in the primary care setting


Thesis Statement

- To examine the current state of ACP in primary care and reveal the barriers to an ACP conversation that are seen in clinic: complex legal forms, reimbursement, time, and the lack of well-validated, culturally competent tools.
Discussion: ACP Barriers

- Unfamiliarity by patients and providers about legal jargon
  - Legal history is complex and multiple different forms are available
  - Regulations differ by state

- Reimbursement
  - Part of a draft in the ACA but removed before implementation
  - Reinstated in a separate bill for Medicare on Jan 1, 2016

- Availability of time in clinic
Discussion: ACP Barriers

- Lack of well-validated standardized tools
  - Provider tools: Respecting Choices
  - Patient tools: PREPARE website, Five Wishes campaign
- Long-term outcomes not yet measured
- Diverse tools will be needed for patient populations
- Lack of training of medical professionals
Conclusion: Next Steps

- Finding a well-validated decision aid that demonstrates consistent outcomes to go beyond just documentation of an ACP discussion to care that aligns with a patient’s values in the event of a medical crisis
- Advocacy for uniformity of advanced directive documentation and legislation across state lines
- Training of healthcare professionals of how to conduct meaningful ACP discussions