



ACP CRIO

Advance Care Planning Collaborative Research & Innovation Opportunities Network

How do healthcare systems evaluate their Advance Care Planning initiatives? Results from a systematic review

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BACKGROUND

- Advance care planning (ACP) is a process of reflection on and communication of a person's future healthcare preferences.
- ACP initiatives are being implemented across healthcare systems around the world.
- There is no consensus on how to assess the impact and effectiveness of ACP implementation.

RESEARCH QUESTION

“What methods have healthcare systems used to evaluate implementation of ACP initiatives?”

METHODS

- Academic databases (n=11; e.g. MEDLINE, Pubmed, CINAHL) and grey literature searched to February 2015
- MeSH terms relating to healthcare systems, advance care planning, end of life care, evaluation, outcome measures, quality improvement
- Hand-searched reference lists of included articles

Inclusion criteria:

Conversation-based ACP initiative

Implementation across a healthcare system

- >1 medical unit/clinic in an institution or geographic area, OR
- multiple units/clinics/institutions across >1 geographic area

Systematic implementation

- initiative applied at the institution, unit/clinic, or clinician level

Evaluation framework reported

Exclusion criteria:

Non-English abstract

Only pediatric patients

Table 1: Inclusion/exclusion criteria.

SEARCH RESULTS



- Most studies evaluated only single parts of a healthcare system e.g. continuing care (only n=8 conducted in multi-setting context)
- Respecting Choices® program (or adaptation) was the most common ACP initiative implemented

RESULTS

- Treatment preferences documented was the most common outcome measure (Figure 1)

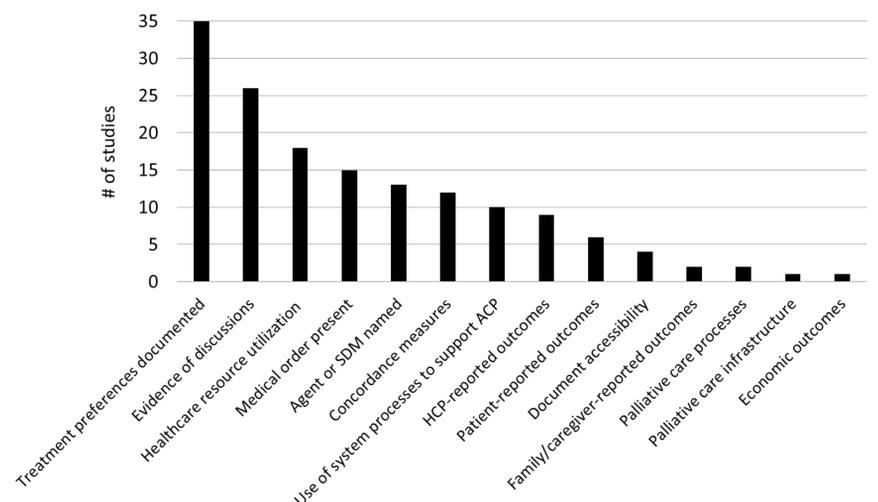


Figure 1: Evaluation outcomes categorized into 14 domains

- Outcome measure categories were mapped onto an Institute of Medicine (IOM) x Donabedian conceptual framework (Table 2)

IOM aims	Donabedian model		
	Structure	Process	Outcome
Safe		A medical order is present in the patient's chart	
Effective	Palliative care infrastructure	Evidence that ACP/AD/EOL discussions have occurred	Concordance measures
		Patient has named an agent/SDM	Patient-reported outcomes
		Use of system processes to support ACP	HCP-reported outcomes
		Palliative care processes	Family/caregiver-reported outcomes
Efficient	Palliative care infrastructure	Document accessibility	Healthcare resource utilization
Timely		A medical order is present in the patient's chart	
		Document accessibility	
Patient-centered		Patients' EOL treatment preferences are documented	Concordance measures
		Use of system processes to support ACP	Patient-reported outcomes
Equitable			

Table 2: IOM x Donabedian conceptual framework

CONCLUSIONS

- Document completion has been frequently used to evaluate ACP implementation, usually in a single healthcare sector
- IOM x Donabedian framework highlights gaps and redundancies
- International dialogue is needed to develop standards for ACP evaluation

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