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## THE EVOLUTION OF AUSTIN HEALTH'S 'STATEMENT OF CHOICES'

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**Background** The Respecting Patient Choices team has been doing advance care planning since 2002. We encourage people to nominate a substitute decision maker (SDM) and document their health care wishes on a 'Statement of Choices' (SOC). This document has evolved and now includes four components to ensure that the written plans are understood and appropriately acted upon by doctors.

## They are:

- 1. to record a person's wishes about future medical treatment based on their goals, values and beliefs.
- 2. to record this information in a language that doctors would recognise and could act upon.
- 3. be easy to fill in.
- to provide prompts for people facilitating the ACP conversation.

**Aim** To evaluate the evolution of the SOC.

**Methods** A retrospective audit of SOC completed in 2010.

**Results** Most people (70%) choose to nominate a SDM and complete a SOC. People generally nominate a family member as their SDM and the majority (>90%) indicate on their SOC that they 'would not want CPR even if the doctors think it could be beneficial' and 'do not want life prolonging treatment (LPT) at all'. 25% provided guidance on what would be an 'acceptable outcome'. The SOC is recognised by the doctors and is acted upon.

## Conclusions

- ► Austin Health has devised a SOC form that enables people to record their medical treatment preferences especially in relation to CPR and LPT.
- ► The SOC is being further evolved for specific chronic conditions (eg, dialysis).