MAKING THINGS BETTER? IMPLEMENTING THE LAST DAYS OF LIFE PERSONALISED CARE PLAN WITHIN AN ACUTE HOSPITAL TRUST
Joanne Thorpe, Jayne Winter, Farida Malik, David Barclay. East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
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Local CQC inspection of one acute NHS Trust (2015), highlighted that improvement in recognising dying and individualised care planning for the dying person was required. In response, the Last Days of Life Personalised Care Plan (LDoLPCP) was developed based on NICE guidance and the five Priorities for care of the dying person (LACDP, 2014) and its use audited.

Methods A focussed support and education programme was used to develop and phase in the LDoLPCP. It has been used in all acute adult wards (n=33) within the Trust since January 2017. From Jan-Jun 2017, an audit was carried out on a sample of notes of patients who had an expected death during an inpatient stay. Clinical notes were audited weekly using a pro-forma covering the five priorities for care of the dying person. The audit aimed to establish whether these patients had a LDoLPCP and if this was correctly completed. Data was collated anonymously and results analysed monthly and used in further education support.

Results There were 859 in-patient deaths, 267 patient notes included. In January 2017, 73.7% (14/19) showed documented evidence of recognition that the patient may die within the next few hours/days, increasing to 84.9% (28/33) in June. Compliance in using the care plan increased from 57.9% (11/19) in January to 72.7% (24/33) in June. Utilising user feedback and audit results, version2 of the LDoLPCP has been developed including an expanded emotional, spiritual and cultural needs section and how to explore these.

Conclusion The audit demonstrates the successful implementation of LDoLPCP with improvement in the number of people recognised as being in the dying phase having a personalised care plan. Weekly audits enabled concerns to be identified and education and support tailored to improve care plan use.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING IN HOSPITALISED FRAIL OLDER PATIENTS: A MISSED OPPORTUNITY? A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND NARRATIVE SYNTHESIS
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Background Frail older people have multiple hospital admissions in the last year of life and account for 40% of UK deaths. Advance care planning (ACP) has been shown to improve outcomes for patients and families. Most frail older people have not participated in ACP but would like to do so. We sought to understand whether an acute hospital admission represents an opportunity for frail older patients to engage in and benefit from ACP through a systematic review and narrative synthesis.

Method Electronic literature search of MEDLINE, CINAHL, ASSIA, PsycINFO, and Embase databases from 1 January 1990 to 1 September 2017. Population: Patients aged 60 years or older with multiple co-morbidities or frailty or need for help with personal care. Setting: Acute hospital wards in any healthcare system. Review questions: Does ACP occur and is it of benefit? What are the views of patients and clinicians? What are the barriers and facilitators?

Results The search returned 8076 unique articles, 16 of which met inclusion criteria. One further study was identified from reference searching. Rates of ACP with hospitalised frail older patients are very low (0%-3%) but most patients would welcome the opportunity to participate in ACP, which was found to improve outcomes, including respecting patient wishes and reduced relatives’ depression after death. Patients and families perceive the most important facilitator is access to doctors willing to discuss ACP, whereas clinicians believe the biggest barrier is family members’ difficulty at accepting a poor prognosis. ACP uptake is increased by trained facilitators and patient ACP information packs.

Conclusions Hospital admission is a missed trigger opportunity for ACP with frail older patients, with a wide gap between evidence and clinical practice. Review findings are limited by variable study quality and scarcity of research in some areas.