ADVANCE CARE PLANNING IN MEDICAL TRAINING IN THE NETHERLANDS

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Our abstract is for a themed session and describes the workshop we want to give. In this workshop we will highlight the need to integrate ACP in the education of medical students and offer some examples of how to do this. Firstly, Judith Westen provides an introduction on the training needs of medical students and the current place of palliative care and ACP in the Dutch medical curricula. Then, Roelke Pasman discusses the outline of a minor on palliative care. She will illustrate the basic ingredients of the minor and show how ACP is integrated in the minor. Thirdly, in small groups, the participants of the workshop will experience different work forms that can be used to stimulate awareness of the need for ACP and train patient–physician communication regarding ACP (e.g. discussion of a movie, role play, discussion on different communication styles). Afterwards the participants discuss their experiences and share ideas on how to integrate ACP in local training and education.

Target audience: Educators, healthcare professionals, researchers, policy makers.

Introduction and background: palliative care and ACP in the curriculum of Dutch medical students

Example: Outline of a minor on palliative care

Interactive: working with training materials and role play

Group discussion: take home messages of participants

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING AND PALLIATIVE CARE FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN MEDICAL RESPITE SHELTERS: A RETROSPECTIVE RECORD REVIEW

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Background: To improve advance care planning and palliative care for severely ill homeless people, insight into current practice is required. Therefore, the present study aims to describe the characteristics of people who deceased after having been homeless, the care preferred and received at the end of life, and difficulties in medical decision-making at medical respite shelters.

Methods: We conducted a quantitative and qualitative retrospective record review at two Dutch medical respite shelters. Included were the medical and nursing records of 61 homeless clients who were known to be deceased between 2009 and 2016 and had resided in one of both shelters for at least one night in the three months before death.

Results: The large majority of patients had a combination of somatic (98%), psychiatric (85%) and substance use problems (93%). Discussions about imminent death were reported for 75% of the patients for whom it was recognized. Twenty-six percent of records provided information about patients’ preferred place of death, which mostly was the shelter. For 36% of patients, hospital admissions had been considered undesirable by their clinician(s). In the three months before death, 75% of patients had at least one such admission. Documented difficulties in medical decision-making mainly concerned impaired decisional capacity of patients, language barriers, and fragmentation and discontinuity of care.

Conclusion: At the end of life, homeless people suffer from multiple health-related problems that require specific expertise. They experience multiple, often undesired hospital admissions. This could be avoided by more comprehensive collaboration between psychosocial, medical, and palliative care.

CONFRONTING VERSUS COMFORTABLE: TWO APPROACHES TO THE RECRUITMENT OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITY IN AN ADVANCE CARE PLANNING STUDY

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Background: Supporting people with learning disability to complete Advance Care Plans is relatively new and there is a lot to learn. This presentation discusses the recruitment processes and outcomes of two New Zealand based studies on this topic. The learnings from this may help us to increase the uptake of Advance Care Planning with people who have learning disabilities.

Methods: Both studies are qualitative action research projects, both attempted to recruit 10 people with learning disability. A key difference is that the initial study recruited participants who were dying (and aware of that), while the current study recruited participants who were well. Recruitment data from both projects was analysed thematically to identify commonalities and differences in processes and outcomes.

Results: Recruitment for the initial study was difficult, resulting in four participants. In contrast, recruitment for the current study was over-subscribed. Removing the need for participants to have a life-limiting condition contributed to this. In part this was because disability service staff, who sought expressions of interest for the study, were more comfortable to talking about Advance Care Planning within a pro-active context.

Conclusion: Pro-active approaches to Advance Care Planning appear to be less confronting and more comfortable for disability staff. Taking a pro-active approach could increase uptake of Advance Care Planning for people with learning disability, who are clear that it is their right to plan for the end of their lives.

THE APPLICATION OF SDM REGARDING PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AS PART OF THE ACP PROCESS: A SCOPING REVIEW

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Background: Shared decision making (SDM) is the process in which the professional caregiver and patient (or the representative) both provide input and jointly discuss and decide which treatment policy will be followed. SDM is seen as an important component of the ACP process. Little is known about SDM in people with intellectual disabilities (ID).
Aims To provide an overview of the application of SDM in people with ID in the palliative care phase.

Methods In this scoping review, we systematically searched in the Embase, Medline and PsychINFO databases for studies that evaluated the SDM process in people with ID in the palliative phase.

Results Of 402 titles and abstracts, 14 full studies were included. 10 were empirical studies, 3 were opinion papers and 1 was a legal report. Papers show an increasing focus on the importance of involvement of people with ID themselves, or - if applicable - their loved ones, in making medical decisions around the end of their lives. None of the papers described SDM in the palliative care phase, and no best practices, guidelines or definitions were shown for SDM in the palliative care phase.

Conclusion This study shows that there is no consensus-based model about what SDM regarding people with an ID should look like. General recommendations indicate that we should involve people with an ID more in the decision-making process by providing them an appropriate environment full of support.

Conclusion The developed pACP program exhibits a modular design ensuring a structured step-by-step approach as well as a personalized process aimed at meeting the highly individual needs of the child and the family.

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OP45 PEDIATRICIANS’ EXPERIENCES AND ATTITUDES REGARDING ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

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Background Advance Care Planning (ACP) enables individuals together with their relatives and health care professionals to discover, discuss and document their values, preferences and goals for care.

Objective To evaluate the involvement of pediatricians taking care of children with life-limiting conditions in ACP.

Methods All pediatricians from six Dutch pediatric hospitals completed a survey about experiences with ACP in their most recent case of a deceased child.

Results Of the 207 participating pediatricians (response 36%), 168 completed the questionnaire (81%), of which 86% described a case. Of these children, 53% died before the age of 5 years. ACP conversations always took place with parents, mostly about diagnosis, life expectancy, goals of care, fears and worries and code status. In 23%, ACP conversations occurred with children (age: range 2.2–17.3 years, median 11.5 years), discussing mostly joy of life, hope, diagnosis and fears and worries. 94% of pediatricians were satisfied with their conversations skills. The occurrence rate of ACP conversations was indicated as insufficient by 49%. Pediatricians stated in 60% that ACP conversations have to result in a documented code status. 37% said ACP conversations intend mainly to provide information to families. Reported barriers to ACP conversations were mostly parent-related, while facilitators concerned continuity of care and a multidisciplinary approach.

Conclusion Pediatricians reported to have ACP conversations mainly with parents with a focus on medical issues. Insight in the perspective of the child is limited. Education on the holistic approach of ACP and on involvement of children in ACP is needed.