

An Integrative Literature Review on Advance Care Planning Across Health Professions: Knowledge, Skills, & Attitude



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Background

Advance care planning (ACP), a process of sharing personal values, life goals, and preferences regarding future medical care, has shown to improve patient outcomes at the end of life.

Physicians, nurses, social workers, and chaplains are typically involved in ACP, but there is a lack of clear distinction between roles and how to effectively collaborate in order to engage patients and families in ACP.

Purpose

To investigate the existing knowledge in the literature about various healthcare providers' knowledge, skills, and attitudes about ACP to inform interprofessional collaboration practice and research.

Methods

Databases:
 PubMed, PsycINFO, and CINAHL

Keywords:
 advance care planning, advance directive, competency, physician, nurse, social worker, chaplain, nurse practitioner, physician assistant

Number of Articles:
 A total of 19 articles were identified.

Analysis:
 After reading the full-text then extracting the findings from each study, our team organized those findings under three competencies: knowledge, skills, and attitude.

Inclusion Criteria

Discussion of competencies (knowledge, skills, attitude) pertaining to ACP or AD of different disciplines

Exclusion Criteria

Not empirical, duplicates, not in English, published before the year 2000, not directly relevant to ACP or AD, or not from viewpoints of targeted disciplines

Findings

Figure 1: Synthesized findings of competencies across disciplines pertaining to ACP & ADs

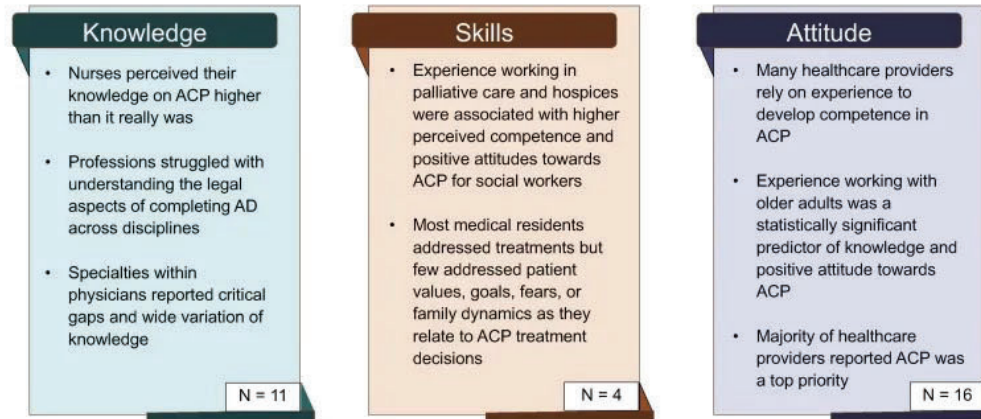


Figure 2: Reported study details from identified articles

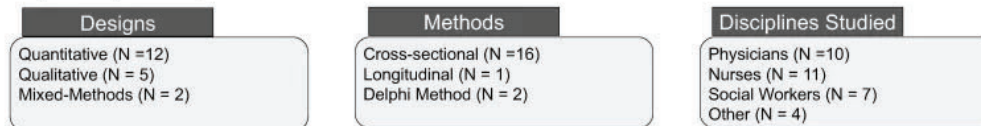


Table 1: Identified facilitators and barriers found to promote or prevent ideal implementation of ACP

Facilitators	Barriers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and professional education Policy/legal system for end-of-life situations Good communication Taking individual patient approach Promoting patient-centered care, autonomy, and self-identity Cultural understanding Receiving support from family and staff Previous consensus on decisions by patient and family 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Professional</th> <th>Patient</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of support, guidance, or policy for ACP Lack of education/training Lack of communication Limited time Level of comfort with ACP discussions </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient or family reluctance or conflict ACP is incongruent with culture Inaccurate understanding of ACP by patient or family </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Professional	Patient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of support, guidance, or policy for ACP Lack of education/training Lack of communication Limited time Level of comfort with ACP discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient or family reluctance or conflict ACP is incongruent with culture Inaccurate understanding of ACP by patient or family
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Conclusion

Most disciplines identified the importance of ACP and reported adequate to moderate perceived levels of knowledge, yet findings suggest some misunderstandings of the legal process and discrepancy in implementing ACP.

Those who had experience working with older adults, in hospice, in palliative care, or had personal experience completing ADs had higher perceived competence and more positive attitudes.

These findings suggest a lack of consistency in training within these health professions and a need for a standardized approach to ACP training across professions

Clinical Relevance

A multi-disciplinary team is central to successful ACP implementation.

- Professional ACP guidelines
- Policy
- Education across disciplines



- Role clarity
- Improving interdisciplinary communication
- Comfort
- Competence
- Positive attitudes.

Acknowledgements

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