

Update on ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

January 2017



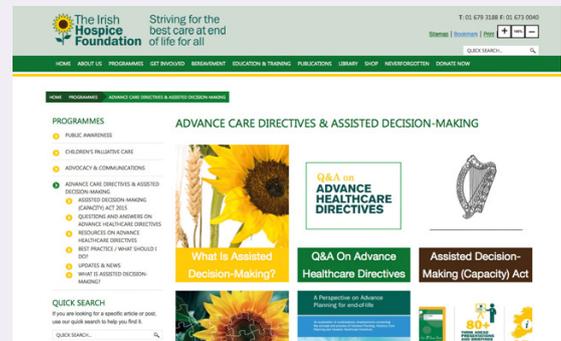
The Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) strives for the best care at end of life for all. Advance care planning supports the provision of excellent end-of-life care by promoting dignity, choice and support to address a persons physical, personal, social and spiritual needs. **This two page fact sheet offers information about advance care planning and IHF activities and resources in relation to advance care planning in light of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (ADMA).**

The Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (ADMA)

- This legislation is a really important step for Ireland in promoting human rights because:
 1. It allows Ireland to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
 2. It supports the autonomy of all people regardless of any disability enabling everyone to be treated the same. The Constitution of Ireland also indicates the rights of bodily integrity and promotes the autonomy of people.
- The ADMA is a new, modern legal framework to support adults who have difficulty, or may have difficulty in the future with making decisions that affect them.
- It allows for the appointment of a substitute decision maker.

- Crucially, this legislation governs advance healthcare directives and promotes the autonomy of a person to make decisions about their treatment in line with their will and wishes.
- It helps healthcare professionals by providing them with important information about a person and their treatment preferences.

More available at: www.hospicefoundation.ie/programmes/advance-care/



Advance Care Planning

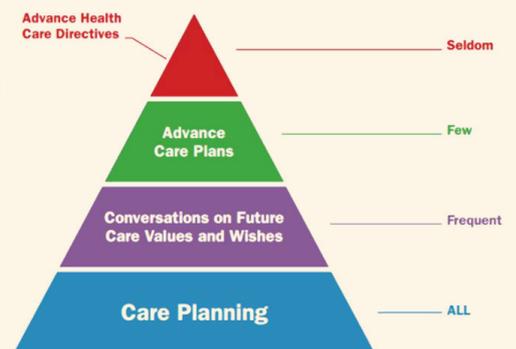
Having 'the Conversation'

Advance care planning is a process of discussion and reflection about goals, values and preferences for future care, that anyone can do at any time.

An advance care plan can be vital, if there is an anticipated deterioration in a person's health or capacity to make decisions and communicate them to others.

The process of advance care planning may lead to the development of an advance healthcare directive but not necessarily.

Advance care planning within healthcare settings



Advance Healthcare Directive (AHD)

An Advance Healthcare Directive informs family, friends and doctors of your wishes for treatment in the event you can no longer communicate them yourself. It is a legally binding document where you write down what healthcare treatments you wouldn't like in the future.

A person can make an AHD when they have capacity to make decisions concerning treatment.

The new legislation provides that a request for a specific treatment is not legally binding but should be followed if relevant to the medical condition and treatment required. An AHD only comes into play if a person loses decision making capacity. Up until that point healthcare professionals will presume you have decision making capacity.



IHF Resources:

- **Think Ahead** forms encourages people to Think, Talk, Tell, Record and Review their preferences. The form includes a section on advance healthcare directives. See Thinkahead.ie
- **A Perspective on Advance Planning for end-of-life (2016)**: explores the developments in advance care planning and advance healthcare directives.
- **Advance care planning and advance healthcare directives with a person with dementia (2016)** is a guidance document for health and social care staff. An accompanying factsheet is available with an algorithm in relation to advance care planning.
- **Training** in relation to planning ahead to include advance care planning and advance healthcare directives is available.



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