## Advanced Care Planning – Facilitating Rich End of Life Conversations

By: Michael Demoratz, PhD, LCSW, CCM

mdemoratz@gmail.com

## What is a Care Manager?

- They come from various backgrounds with Diverse qualifications, education, and experience.
- They professional who assists clients in attaining maximum functional potential and level of wellbeing
- Background nurses, social workers, gerontologists or other health or mental health professional experienced and knowledgeable about issues of aging, disability and serious illness
- They are informed on community resources
- A problem solver who can both anticipate and respond to challenges of aging and related concerns (current and future)

## What Can Care Managers Do?

- Holistically assess needs and develop a proactive plan
- Coordinate care and services (includes follow-up!) supporting Continuity of Care
- Act as a Liaison between client, providers, loved ones, fiduciaries, community resources, facilities, vendors, etc. (keeping everyone informed and on the same page)
- Promote health and prevent illness
- Advocate
- Monitor ongoing needs
- Link to services/resources
- Mediate family conflicts

## How to Find a Care Manager https://www.aginglifecare.org



#### Levels of Care

- Acute care Hospital
- Skilled Care
  - Rehabilitation Facility
     Nursing Home
- Custodial Care ADL Nursing Home
  - Home Care

### What is Medicare?

- Health Insurance for those 65 and over as well as those with specific health conditions who are younger than 65 (e.g. ALS, End Stage Renal Disease)
- Part A Hospital, Skilled Nursing, Hospice, some Home Health, lab tests
- Part B Medical (e.g. Doctors' Services, Outpatient Care, Home Health, Durable Medical Equipment, Supplies, Advance Care Planning, etc.)
- Part C Medicare Advantage (combines Parts A, B, C & D into one plan; provided by private insurance companies)
- Part D Prescription (provided by private insurance companies)

#### Medicare Resources

- HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) – through Council on Aging
- Offer free information on Medicare (bias free)
- https://www.coasc.org/programs/hicap/
- Hotline 800.434.0222
- OC 714.560.0424

### Long Term Care

- Inability to perform the Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) without assistance
- Activities of Daily Living
- 1. Bathing
- 2. Dressing
- 3. Toileting
- 4. Continence
- 5. Transferring/Ambulation
- 6. Eating

## Paying for Long Term Care

- Self-Insure (Net worth, cash flow, emotional & physical health, cost)
- Die before need for LTC assistance
- Live with Children
- Transfer cost to insurance company
- Apply for government benefits

#### LTC - Insurance

- Determine premium
- Indemnity policy
- Inflation protection
- Comprehensive policy includes residential care, home care, respite care, adult day care, nursing home care

#### LTC – Insurance continued

- Avoid Specific Disease Policies
  - Determine financial health of insurance company
     Who will file your claim?
  - Age limit or pre-existing conditions
  - 30 days to rescind insurance contract

## **CA Partnership Policy**

- Designed to protect Californians from being forced to spend everything they have worked for on LTC and to prevent or delay dependence on Medi-Cal
- Partners CalPERS & Genworth
- www.RUReadyCA.org
- All Partnership-approved policies are required to include:
- Inflation Protection
  - Asset Protection
  - Comprehensive Care Management Rate Increase Regulation

## LTC Policy Premiums

- Elimination period o-90 days or more (1 year) no benefits paid
- Age daily reimbursement amount (\$50 \$500 per day)
- Length of Coverage (by year or lifetime), cover home care, adult day care, nursing home care

#### Medi-Cal

- Provides custodial care for people with low income and limited ability to pay (includes aged, blind, disabled, young adults and children, pregnant women, persons in a skill nursing or intermediate care home)
- Assets protected home, vehicle, burial plan, \$1,500

## Options for Long Term Care

- 1. Skilled Nursing Facilities
- 2. Assisted Living ranging from small 6 beds to large multi-level facilities of hundreds of residents.
- 3. In-Home Care

# H.E.L.P. (Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation)

- www.help4srs.org
- Dedicated to empowering older adults and their families by providing impartial information, education and counseling on elder care, law, finances and consumer protection



## "Your Way"



- Think about what is important
- Obtain wanted medical care and avoid
- unwanted medical care
- Live life the way we choose
- Help our family and friends know what we want
- Help our family and friends do what we want
- "Your Way" can be used by individuals, families and friends
- "Your Way" can also be used by attorneys, care managers and other professionals to help their clients.

#### **ACP & POLST**

- The National POLST Paradigm is an approach to end-oflife planning that emphasizes patients' wishes about the care they receive. The POLST Paradigm – which stands for Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment – is an approach to end-of-life planning emphasizing:
  - (i) advance care planning conversations between patients, health care professionals and loved ones;
  - (ii) shared decision-making between a patient and his/her health care professional about the care the patient would like to receive at the end of his/her life; and
  - (iii) ensuring patient wishes are honored.

#### **Advance Health Care Directive vs. POLST**

AHCD	POLST
<ul> <li>For anyone 18 and older</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>For seriously ill or frail, at any age</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>General instructions for <i>future</i> treatment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Specific orders for current treatment</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Names medical decision maker</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Can be signed by decision maker</li> </ul>

• Studies show that only about 25% of Americans have recorded their medical care wishes in a legal document.

- A recent poll found that common reasons include:
- I don't want to think about it ... morbid, depressing, bad omen
- I think it has to involve a lawyer
- I'm not at that age
- I think it costs too much
- I don't know what to write
- I'm intimidated by the forms

### Why plan?



**50%**not able to make own medical decisions

- Default treat aggressively even if not desired
- It's hard even for family members to predict patient wishes

Source: Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, 2002

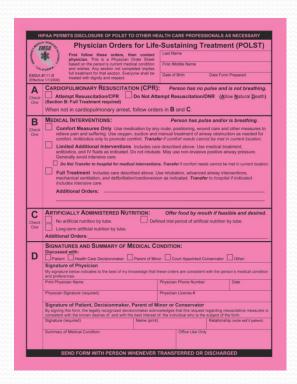
#### **Advance Directives & the POLST Paradigm**

Download your states specific forms here"

http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.c
fm?pageid=3289

Review your states POLST Paradigm program status here

http://www.polst.org/programs-in-yourstate/



### Hope is not a plan

# When the plan is unclear, the default is to treat aggressively.

### Family may be left with

- Uncertainty and stress
- Guilt or depression
- Financial concerns



## Advance care planning tools

#### **Conversation Tools**

- Go Wish Cards
- The Conversation Project's Starter Kit
- CCCC's Advance Care Conversation Guide
- CCCC's Finding Your Way
- The last 2 are found at www.coalitionccc.org





# Why create an Advance Health Care Directive?

- A way to make healthcare wishes known if you are unable to communicate
- Allows a person to do *either or both* of the following:
  - Appoint a decision maker -- a healthcare agent.
  - State instructions for future healthcare decisions.

#### Which document do I use?

- No single form for any state Several to choose from
- Available from
  - Hospital social services or chaplaincy
  - Caring Connections (caringinfo.org)
  - 5 Wishes (27 languages translated)
    - http://www.agingwithdignity.org/five-wishes.php

### Who do I choose as my agent?

- A person you trust to make the decisions *you* want
- Someone who is:
  - familiar with your values
  - willing and able



- Does not have to be your closest family member
- Tell others who you chose
- Select an alternate

### What makes an Advance Directive legal?

- Your signature and the date
- The signatures of two witnesses or a notary
- If you are in a nursing home, the signature of the patient advocate or ombudsman

## What types of instructions can be included in an Advance Directive?

- Where you would like to be when you die
- MD preference
- Accepting or refusing life-sustaining treatment
- Quality of life considerations
- Organ/tissue donation instructions

# What do I do when I have completed my Advance Directive?

- Give a copy to your decision maker.
- Make copies for loved ones.
- Discuss it with doctor; get it in your medical record.
- Keep a copy yourself.
- Take it with you to the hospital.
- Photocopies are *just as valid* as the original.

#### Where do I keep my completed POLST form?

#### The original stays with you!

- At home:
  - Keep in easy-to-find location
  - Give to emergency medical services
- At a nursing home or hospital:
  - Filed in medical chart
  - Goes with you if you are transferred

## Summary - POLST

- A voluntary form that transforms patients' wishes concerning medical treatment into medical orders.
- Is durable across the entire healthcare continuum
- Stays with the patient: Home, SNF, Hospital and during EMS transport.
- Is Valid for any patient!

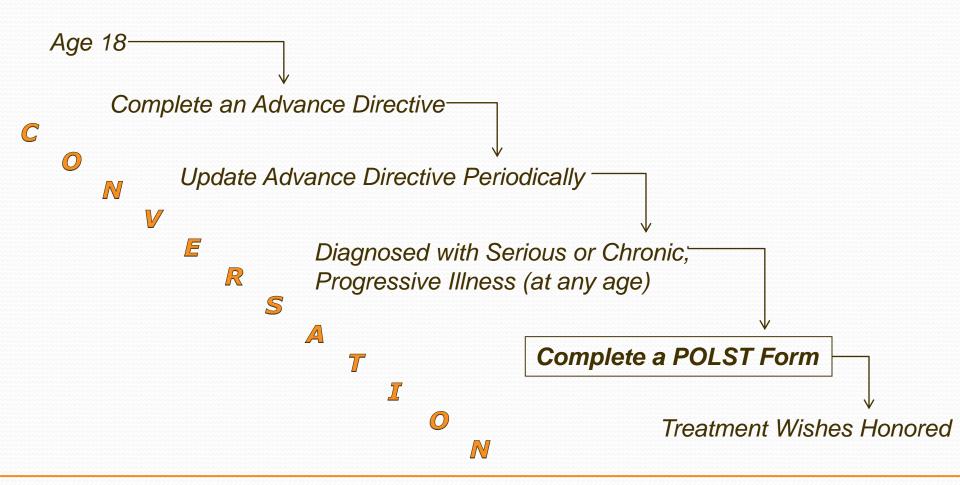
### POLST continued

- Social Workers, case managers, nurses and other health care workers may help a patient complete POLST. Just remember the physician must be involved in the conversation at some point to validate the wishes expressed.
- Remember this is legally a Physician Order and must be followed.
- Although, it can be changed/updated according to the situation or patients desires.
- This does not completely replace a DPOA, it is still helpful to have an agent named for surrogate decision-making.

# What happens if you don't have an Advance Directive?

- A physician or medical team will pick someone to make choices for you.
- This may be the person who is most available
  - o The person who brought you in
  - The most vocal person
  - The person who visits the most often

### Advance Care Planning Continuum



## Palliative Care vs Hospice Care

- What is the difference?
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
- www.nhpco.org
- Center to Advance Palliative Care <u>www.capc.org</u>

- Michael J. Demoratz, PhD, LCSW., CCM.
- Direct/Mobile 949-355-6000
- mdemoratz@gmail.com
- Resources
- Being Mortal
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQhI3Jb7vMg
- www.capc.org Center to Advance Palliative Care
- www.polst.org
   National POLST Paradigm
- www.coalitionccc.org Coalition for Compassionate Care of California
- <u>www.theconversationproject.org</u> Conversation Project