

Outline

“01.02 Advance Directives”

Overview

1. Advanced Directives
 - a. Living Will
 - b. Medical Power of Attorney

Nursing Points

General

1. Patient Wishes & Advocacy
 - a. Patient Wishes
 - b. Patient Advocacy
2. Living Will
 - a. Legal Document
 - b. Written out for instances for which a patient cannot communicate their decisions
 - c. Often DNR/Partial DNR/Full Code Wishes
 - i. Full Code
 1. Chemicals/Drugs
 2. Compressions
 3. Shocks
 4. Intubation
 - ii. DNR – Do Not Resuscitate
 1. None of the Above
 - iii. Partial DNR
 1. One or more, but NOT all of the above
 - d. State Dependent on executing them

3. Medical Power of Attorney

- a. Legal Document
- b. Different than Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA)
- c. Designates a particular person or persons to make medical decisions for the patient
- d. In the absence of a MPOA, state laws dictate who makes medical decisions
 - i. Example – TX – Spouse, Adult Children, Living Parents, Nearest Living Adult Relative, then providers

4. Who needs a Living Will and who needs a Medical Power of Attorney

- a. Living Wills and Plans of Care
 - i. Needed prior to injury, illness, hospitalization and/or treatment
 - ii. Example: Healthy individuals or those with chronic illness who may expect to receive treatment in the future
- b. Medical Power of Attorney
 - i. Needed by those who may, at some point, be unable to voice their own decisions regarding medical care.
 - ii. Example: Patients with dementia or cancer.

Nursing Concepts

1. Health Policy
2. Ethical & Legal Practice
3. End of Life

Patient Education

1. Patients should be educated on advanced directives
2. Patients should be educated on Power of Attorneys and Living Wills
3. Chaplain can assist with obtaining an advanced directive in the hospital