

## Abstract

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is considered a standard component of primary care by multiple national health organizations. Primary care coordinates all aspects of care through the life span and longstanding provider-patient relationships develop, however; small offices may struggle with the realities of implementing ACP, which results in a lack of an ACP process and low percentage of completed advance directives (AD) in patient's charts. The Doctor of Nursing Practice project described in this paper details the design, implementation, and evaluation of an evidence-based guideline and a practical toolkit using the Ottawa model of research use theoretical framework as a foundation. The comprehension composite scores from pre to post questionnaires showed a statistically significant increase. The project also demonstrated an increase in AD documents in chart audits from 5.88% to 27.45%. Of the 51 ACP discussions, 11 resulted in completed AD documents, with a conversion rate of 22%. Wellness visits provided an important milieu for ACP discussions. Keywords: Advance care planning, advance directives, primary care, wellness visits.