



Abstract:

**The Advance Care Planning Program – an Innovative Model of
Care Demonstration Project**

Presenting authors:

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Background

There has been a dramatic rise in demand for Palliative Care services over the last ten years in Australia. This has been accompanied by a clear expectation from both the Government and the public that Palliative Care services are provided in both a timely and appropriate manner in a care setting of the patients’ choice. The literature indicates that the traditional medical and hospice models have been unable to cope satisfactorily with the demands upon them. A shift both nationally and internationally towards an integrated collaborative based model, largely community-based, is evident.

An innovative project is underway within Gold Coast HSD, trialling a new model of care which aims to implement and evaluate a sustainable and flexible model of Allied Health advance care planning practice, targeting the supportive care/palliative care needs of patients during the last 3-12 months of their illness. It is anticipated that the model will become an integral part of the established Gold Coast Health Service District Palliative Care Service.

Objectives

This presentation explores an innovative model of care project, currently underway within GCHSD.

The aims are:

- To discuss a new model of care for patients who have a terminal illness, who are in their last anticipated last 3 – 12 months of life
- To explore facilitated multidisciplinary advance care planning with the patient and their significant other/s ‘earlier’ in the illness trajectory, allowing for multidisciplinary interventions to become more effective and enable the delivery of improved outcomes for patients/significant others.

Methods

This model of care, the “Allied Health Supportive Care Initiative” will be explored. Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 data will be presented along with relevant literature.

Conclusions

Allied Health has a key role in facilitating advance care planning interventions and improving the quality of life for patients during their anticipated last year of life. Providing an Allied Health service within a shared model of care will support

the delivery of holistic care for patients/significant others, expand upon patient choices and reduce system costs.