ADVANCED DIRECTIVES IN AN INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM
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INTRODUCTION

- Advance directives are considered to be important tools for promoting patient autonomy, dignity, reassurance, and empowerment. However only 15% - 25% of adults complete advance directives in U.S.
- Advance directive completion in patients 65 or older increased nearly three fold following discussion with primary care physician or nurse.
- When primary care physician initiates an advance directive discussion within clinic visit, it normalizes the discussion, enhances relationship and improves patient satisfaction.
- Only 47% of patients ≥65 years old have completed AD in our internal medicine residency clinic.

AIM

To increase our advance directive (AD) completion numbers for patients ≥ 65 years old in the Internal Medicine Residency Clinic at Sinai to >59% by project completion.

METHODS: Interventions

- Create standardized clinic AD completion work flow
- Hold educational sessions for residents to learn/teach advance directive and goals of care conversations
- Incentivize residents to discuss need for AD over the phone with the patient and schedule office visits for AD completion
- Regular 1-on-1 follow up with each clinic pod basis, sharing updated list of their ≥65 years old patient’s without ADs
- Project mid-point: Establish online AD completion tool (VYNCA), begin to train staff in its use

RESULTS

Measure #1: Advance Directive Numbers:

- Increased by 2% (+4% compared to our controls)
- Number of Advance Directive conversations and specific appointments with patients

Measure #2: Mayo Well-Being Index

- Mayo Well Being Index score improved 0.9 between project mid- and end-point (and better than national specialty comparison group mean at both timepoints)

Measure #3: CLEQS Survey Results N=29-39 per admin

DISCUSSION

Key Findings

- Percentage of ADs completion - minimal change
- Clinic learning environment (CLEQS) improved

Limitations

- Wisconsin’s 2-witness rule for document completion
- Limited social work support in clinic
- Global Pandemic halting in person visits

Next Steps and Sustainability

- Refocus efforts on virtual completion with VYNCA
- Continue training new employees on work flow
- Incentivize early steps in work flow

References