

Advance Care Planning

Document information	
Version number	1
Original publication date	
Developed by	Health and Social Policy Branch (HSPB)
Consultation	Palliative Care COP and Clinical Leads Aged Care Unit Office of the Chief Medical Officer
Endorsed by	Dr Nigel Lyons
Review date	
Reviewed by	
For use by	Local Health Districts, Palliative Care COP, Aged Care COP

Advance Care Planning (ACP) enables a person to discuss and document the extent of medical intervention they wish to receive when in critical care or if approaching the end of their life.

ACP should be part of routine practice and with the increasing impact of COVID-19 on services, it is critical for clinical staff to proactively engage in these discussions with all patients and families.

NSW Health recommends that all staff be reminded of the importance of asking all patients if they have an advance care plan and/or Advance Care Directive.

For clinicians and health staff	<p>The NSW Advance Care Directive Guidelines provide guidance to health professionals on how to discuss ACP and use an Advance Care Directive as part of this process. Resources include information about how to sensitively and affectively engage with patients and their families about advance care planning.</p> <p>While patients' wishes may not always be met, ACPs can support clinical care which better aligns with patients' preferences.</p>
For patients and families	<p>NSW Health information is also available to help people to understand the importance of planning ahead and of documenting their preferences for care and treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Care Planning – Making your wishes known • Making an Advance Care Directive - form and information booklet.
For Residential Age Care Facilities	<p>Local Health Districts may also engage with local partners including Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) and encourage them to ensure ACP information is available and up to date for residents.</p> <p>Useful resources to support ACP in aged care settings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Life Directions in Aged Care • Advance Care Planning Australia

More information on ACP and COVID-19 is available on the [Advance Care Planning Australia website](#). Health Practitioners and patients can also call the advisory service on 1800 987 649 between Mon – Fri from 9am – 5pm.