

A ward-based ACP intervention

What: Determine if a brief ACP intervention is beneficial to patients on a hospital ward

Why/rationale: To determine if beginning a brief ACP conversation encourages patients to continue ACP conversations with health care professionals.

Who: Southern DHB

Benefits/value added:

- Staff on the wards complete L1 ACP eLearning modules and gain confidence in having ACP conversations with patients.
- The concept of ACP is socialised with patients and integrated into the ward as business as usual.
- ACP resources are distributed to patients allowing them the opportunity to consider them once they are discharged from hospital.

Risks/challenges:

- Staff lack confidence to bring up ACP with patients.
- Patients do not engage with clinicians regarding ACP.

Steps: How this looked on the ground

1. Determined a ward to trial brief ACP conversations with patients.
2. Encouraged all staff working on the ward complete ACP Level one eLearning.
3. Determined the cohort of patients for brief introduction of ACP (eg, acute respiratory patients).
4. Introduced ACP using the following process:
 - A – Asking if the patient has heard about ACP?
 - C – Communication: What have you been told?
 - P – Provide patients with ACP resources, pamphlets and plans

Impact:

- The majority of patients who experienced the brief ACP intervention went on to have further ACP conversations with their general practitioners.

Future opportunities:

- Consider implementing this process across other wards in the hospital

