

Educating senior medical workforce on ACP legal aspects

What: Educate the senior medical workforce on the legal structure of ACP, Advance Directives and EPA

Why/rationale: To make sure the senior medical workforce within the DHBs are aware of the legal implications and responsibilities of responding to a patient's ACP, Advance Directives (AD) and Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA).

Who: South Canterbury District Health Board

Benefits/value added:

- Senior clinicians confidently discuss ACP and are aware of their legal responsibilities of upholding an ACP, AD and the role of EPA.
- Patients' ACPs are being used by clinicians to determine care and treatment.

Risks/challenges:

- ACPs cannot be accessed and used to guide patient care.
- Clinicians are not aware of the legal status and standing of ACP and AD.

Steps: How this looked on the ground

1. Examined local DHB medical incidents looking for cases where a person's advance care plan was not adhered to.
2. Built a case study for teaching purposes.
3. Approached DHB in-house counsel to provide education for senior medical officers at a Grand Round.
4. Created an educational presentation to include:
 - Enduring Power of Attorney
 - Advance Directives
 - determining capacity.

Outcomes to date:

Clarity of process and increased support from senior medical officers.

Future opportunities:

Considering expanding to other clinical staff groups – linking into their education sessions.

Remember to encourage staff to do the e-learning; the second module is all about the legal framework.

