

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES, UNCERTAINTY, AND CARE TRANSITIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

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Brief Description of Research or Project: This report addresses the role of Advance Directives (AD) in managing uncertainty and care transitions for residents of LTC facilities. Data were gleaned from the charts of 182 decedents in 3 LTC facilities and from interviews with residents, family members, and staff members. Most ADs were changed to “the palliative directive” within days of death. Prior to that time, as long as there was any possibility that treatment might have effect, some disease-modifying intervention was preferred. Interview data suggested that opting for the palliative directive was seen as giving up, or to deny the resident a chance for more life. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** Concern has been expressed about the appropriate balance of aggressive, disease-modifying interventions and conservative, comfort-focused care, particularly for very frail individuals in advanced old-age. Understanding the dynamics of goal transitions in advance care planning and the beliefs on which they are built can inform conversations among residents, care providers, and family members.