

Title: MDPOA Education: An Initiative for Bedside Nurses at the Poudre Valley Hospital

Author: Lauren Carter, BSN, RN-BC

Problem Statement: Only 30% of patients admitted to UHealth's Poudre Valley Hospital have a completed Medical Durable Power of Attorney (MDPOA) document. Unfortunately, nurses lack knowledge for form completion and training is not provided.

Background: A literature search related to palliative care bedside nurse education was conducted using Google Scholar and Elsevier Science Direct. Evidence demonstrated a need to increase palliative care education for bedside nurses and training in communication skills. Also, the number of patients having a completed MDPOA at UHealth North was less than patients in other UHealth hospitals.

Purpose: This project's purpose is to educate bedside surgical nurses about the MDPOA document, so they can help their patients to complete one.

Methods: An 11-item survey was conducted on the surgical unit in April 2023 to assess nurses' knowledge gaps and comfort level with the MDPOA form. An educational PowerPoint presentation was created based on the survey results and presented at a surgical unit staff meeting in July 2023. An identical post-education survey determined if these nurses gained knowledge and comfort with MDPOA completion.

Findings: Pre-education survey results (N=21) revealed that 52% of nurses do not know where to find a patient's MDPOA document in their chart. Also, 71% of nurses feel uncomfortable explaining a MDPOA form to patients. Furthermore, 76% of nurses do not know where to find a blank MDPOA form, or how to complete an electronic MDPOA in the patient portal. Nineteen bedside nurses attended the educational presentation. Post-education survey findings (N=8) proved that nurses gained knowledge about the document and can better assist patients to complete a MDPOA form.

Practice Implications: This educational intervention is an important first step in increasing knowledge and comfort with MDPOA completion. Several nurses commented that the information was "very interesting," "useful," and corrected mistaken beliefs about the form.