



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

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Statement of the Problem

In April 2023, only 20% of UCHealth North patients had completed MDPOA documents in their electronic health record.

Inpatient nurses are not trained on how to help patients complete a MDPOA form, and they lack the knowledge to do so.

Background/Literature Review

The number of patients having a completed MDPOA at UCHealth North is considerably less than patients in other UCHealth regions.

A literature review 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 (Anderson et al., 2016).

Purpose

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



Methods

- In April 2023, an 11-item survey assessed surgical nurses' knowledge gaps and comfort level with the MDPOA form.
- An educational PowerPoint presentation was created based on the survey results.
- In July 2023, the education was presented at a staff meeting on the surgical unit at the Poudre Valley Hospital.
- A post-education survey determined the nurses' knowledge and comfort level with MDPOA completion after the intervention.

Results

Nineteen bedside surgical unit nurses attended the education session. The post-education survey showed improved mean scores with every survey question.

Survey Questions	Pre Mean (n=21)	Post Mean (n=8)
1. I am familiar with a MDPOA (medical durable power of attorney) form.	2.86	3.13
2. In Colorado, a notary is required to complete MDPOA paperwork.	2.14	1.25
3. In Colorado, a patient's MDPOA automatically defaults to a patient's spouse/significant other.	2.24	1.75
4. If a patient wants their spouse/significant other to be their MDPOA, they need to complete MDPOA paperwork.	3.19	3.38
5. I know where to look in EPIC to see if a patient has completed MDPOA paperwork.	2.57	3.5
6. If I see that a patient does not have a MDPOA form completed in EPIC, I feel comfortable offering them help to complete one.	2.33	3.0
7. I am comfortable explaining the MDPOA form to my patients.	2.43	3.13
8. I do not feel as if I have time to talk with my patients about completing a MDPOA.	2.90	2.25
9. I know where the MDPOA forms are located on my unit.	2.05	3.13
10. I know how to complete a MDPOA in the My Health Connection app.	1.95	3.13

*Strongly disagree = 1; disagree = 2; agree = 3; strongly agree = 4

11. What do you keep to scan into a patient's electronic health record?	Pre-survey	Post-survey
Copy	52.38%	87.50%
Original	47.62%	12.50%

Conclusion

- The education intervention was successful.
- Nurses are better able to assist their patients with completing a MDPOA form.
- This educational intervention is an important first step in increasing knowledge and comfort with MDPOA form completion.
- Future plans include presenting this education to other inpatient units at the Poudre Valley Hospital, which will increase this intervention's scope, and ultimately MDPOA completion rates in UCHealth's Northern region.

Limitations

- The survey was anonymous, so it is uncertain if the same nurses completed both surveys.
- N-size of the post-education survey was much smaller than n-size of the pre-education survey.
- Some nurses who likely completed the first survey were no longer working on the surgical unit at the time of the post-education survey.

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Reference:

Anderson, W. G., Puntillo, K., Boyle, D., Barbour, S., Turner, K., Cimino, J., ... & Pantilat, S. (2016). ICU bedside nurses' involvement in palliative care communication: a multicenter survey. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 51(3), 589-596. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2015.11.003>