A263 - Barriers and facilitators to framing inpatient goals of care: physicians’ perceptions

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Introduction:
Barriers and facilitators to framing goals of patient care (GOPC) and factors motivating decision making is relatively unexplored (1,2,3).

Methods:
A three part survey of physicians at an Australian hospital in a culturally and linguistically diverse suburb. Identification of levels of confidence and barriers and facilitators to GOPC discussion and decision making was the main outcome measure. Factors influencing decision-making was analysed through scenarios.

Results:
22 out of 96 eligible participants responded; 12 female, 10 male, clinical experience 4-31 years. Level of confidence was ranked between “somewhat confident and very confident.” All but one respondent had six months of ICU experience. No differences in the level of confidence among Physician groups.
14 barriers and 8 facilitators were identified; poor prognosis and patient or family request were most common facilitators; conflict between treating teams and the patient/surrogate and language barriers were most common barriers. Factors driving GOPC decision-making included clinical, value judgement, communication, prognostication, justice and avoidance.

Conclusion:
Numerous barriers and facilitators were identified. Factors driving decision making did not just consider clinical factors; conflict and prognostication were important. A larger study could explore these themes and confirm findings. Factors associated with confidence could inform future training schemes.

References:

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SUMMARY OF SURVEY QUESTIONS