

## **Macro Perspectives on the Initiatives and Development of Advance Care Planning in the Hospital Authority**

Decisions on withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment are amongst the most difficult decisions in clinical medicine. These decisions need to be made in the context of ethical, legal as well as complying with institutional standards.

The presentation aims to share the initiatives and development of Advance Care Planning (“ACP”) in the Hospital Authority (HA). While legislation of Advance Directives (“AD”) and relevant end-of-life care is still pending in Hong Kong, HA realized the need of relevant ethical guidelines to facilitate clinical care, especially for patients with irreversible terminal illness approaching end of life. An overview of the HA mission in developing various guidelines facilitating patients to make advance decisions will be given as opening. The illustration will cover from first inception of ACP concept to the ultimate set of ACP guidelines.

Practical considerations like how AD/ACP are being applied in HA settings to facilitate patients making advance decisions, such as do’s and don’ts will also be discussed. Variations in practice with regard to AD/ACP in other countries will be briefly touched. Finally, the presentation will end up listing some challenges faced by frontline healthcare professionals and the way forward.