

Workshop on Advance Care Planning for People with Dementia and Their Families: From Legal, Medical and Social Care Perspectives

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is the process of communication among patient, family and health providers about future medical or personal care. It takes into considerations of aspects such as the disease prognosis, benefits and harms of treatment, values and preferences of the patient. Usually, ACP is intended for mentally competent adult patients. In the Hospital Authority, the term ACP extends to include that communication with family members of the mentally incompetent patients. For people with Dementia, if they have not conducted ACP at the earlier stage, family members often find themselves in a difficult position to make proxy decisions for the patients when their cognitive ability declined at advanced stage. The difficulty and stress may arise and the decision making is even harder when there is family disagreement at times of crises. In this session, speakers from legal, medical, and social care professions will share the experiences and challenges of conducting ACP for people with dementia. Strategies to improve the facilitation of ACP discussions for people with dementia will be highlighted.