

Advance Directives: Heightening awareness among the nursing population

Sarah Boggio, Time Friemoth, Lindsey Johnson, Ashley Monroe, Emily Schaefer

Do you have Advance Directives (ADs)? That's one question five students at University of Cincinnati's College of Nursing asked their classmates as part of their Capstone Senior project. Seniors Sarah Boggio, Tim Friemoth, Lindsey Johnson, Ashley Monroe, and Emily Schaefer realized the need for further education among their classmates after a pre-test survey revealed that the vast majority of nursing students agreed that having Advance Directives are important, but less than 10% had them in place. Also from the pretest, the group concluded that students are generally uncomfortable discussing ADs with patients, with almost 59% of respondents marking 5 or less in confidence points on a 10-point Likert scale. This is significant considering patient education is a big part of a nurse's responsibility.

In order to address this problem, the members of the capstone group hosted a workshop on ADs . A presentation providing an in-depth look at ADs and their importance in nursing practice was provided by a paralegal from a local hospital. The workshop was deemed a success after the post-test results showed that well over 90% of attendees had a greater understanding of ADs and felt more confident about presenting information to patients following the presentation.

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