

Stand-alone advance care planning clinics

Overview

The Department has been asked if stand-alone advance care planning clinics can be established to generate additional income for health services.

Advance care planning: have the conversation; A strategy for Victorian health services 2014-2018 (referred to as 'strategy') provides clear direction that advance care planning is part of usual care and should be embedded throughout the care continuum.

The department expectations are outlined in the Victorian health policy and funding guidelines 2014-15. In 2014-15 health services are expected to implement formal advance care planning structures and processes, including establishing a system for preparing and or/receiving and documenting advance care plans in partnership with a patient's carer/substitute decision maker (p.26).

Department advice

- The department does not support the establishment of stand-alone advance care planning clinics.
- Health services are expected to build advance care planning into existing admitted and ambulatory services including centre and home based services.
- Health services are reminded of their obligation to provide tertiary and secondary care and not to substitute for primary care. The needs of people requiring only advance care planning services fall into the primary care remit and patients should be encouraged to work with their general practice and/or residential aged care facility. People can independently complete an advance care plan (www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/acp) or My Values profile (www.myvalues.org.au) and health services should support them to do so.
- Consumers requesting advance care planning discussions with their doctor will assist with building capacity in primary care services. Health services with particular advance care planning expertise may choose to support primary care providers through advice and information provision.

References

- Advance care planning: have the conversation; A strategy for Victorian health services 2014-2018
- www.health.vic.gov.au/acp
- www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/havetheconversation

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