

# Overcoming Barriers to Promote Advance Care Planning Discussions in the Outpatient Setting: Is There a Better Way?



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## INTRODUCTION

Primary care physicians play a vital role in patients' advanced care planning but studies consistently show these important conversations are happening far too infrequently. Many barriers have been identified in attempting to overcome this state.

## OBJECTIVES

This quality improvement project was undertaken with the goal of increasing advanced care planning discussions between physicians and their patients in the outpatient setting through implementation of an efficient, cost-effective measure- video education- to serve as both an aid for overcoming barriers and a reminder to facilitate these discussions.

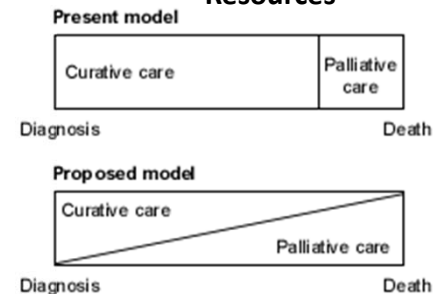
## METHODS

- Adults aged 50 years and older in our rural, tribally-affiliated outpatient family medicine residency clinic were randomized by our patient appointment scheduler based on appointment time only into intervention and control groups.
- Patients in the intervention group were asked to watch a 6-minute, non-biased informational video (found at: <https://youtu.be/skzAGEf9bv8>) on advance care planning while waiting for their doctor.
- The control group was not offered the video.
- Resident physicians were asked to document CPT code 99497 in the electronic health record for any advance care planning discussions undertaken regardless of study group.
- Electronic records were then queried for this code and data compared between study groups to determine the efficacy of the intervention.

## BARRIERS TO ADVANCE CARE PLANNING DISCUSSIONS

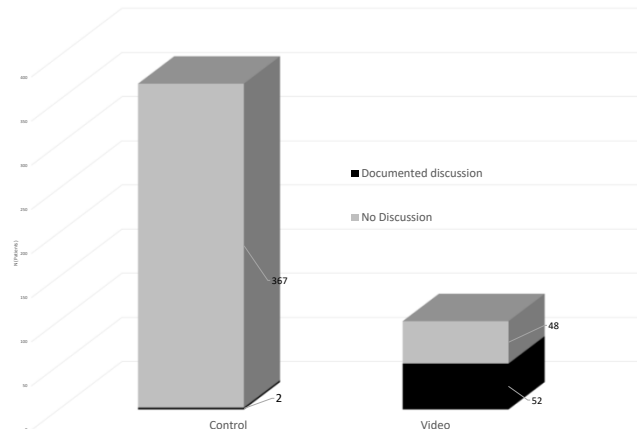


## World Health Organization Model for Allocation of Medical Care Resources

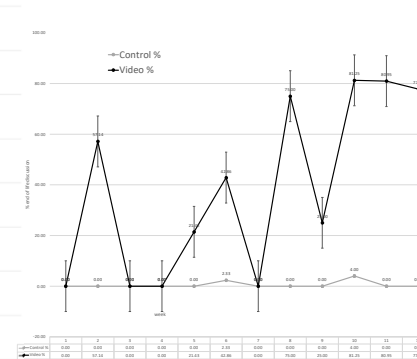


## RESULTS

Number of Documented Advance Care Planning Discussions Control v. Intervention Group



Percent of Documented Advance Care Planning Discussions Control v. Intervention Group by Week



**Future Direction:** We plan to continue to use video education to encourage advance care planning discussions in our clinic while making advance directive documentation more easily accessible in our electronic health record through application of a new direct-link button. This will also function as a reminder for our physicians to address the topic. We will collect pre/post implementation data for this measure.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The video intervention led to a nearly 100-fold increase (0.54% in the control group vs. 52% in the intervention group,  $p < 0.00001$ ) in advance care planning discussions between patients and their physician.
- In-office video education may continue to serve as a mechanism for fostering these discussions in the future.

## REFERENCES

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