Hospice Palliative Care

Tip of the Month – April 2016

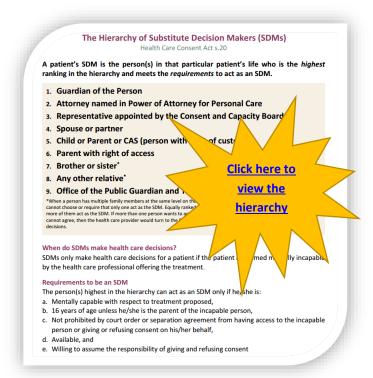
Ask your patients who their Substitute Decision Maker is

As health care providers, before providing treatment, you must get informed consent from the patient or from their Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) if the patient is not mentally capable. Advance Care Planning is not consent, but good Advance Care Planning conversations prior to a health crisis can help your patients and their loved ones be better prepared to make informed health care decisions when the time comes.

What can you do? Encourage your patients to identify their SDM

The first step of Advance Care Planning is deciding who will be your SDM. In Ontario, there are two ways your patients can decide who their future SDM will be:

- 1) Confirm their automatic future SDM from the <u>hierarchy</u>
 OR
- 2) Choosing someone else to act as their SDM by preparing a <u>Power of Attorney for Personal Care</u> (a legal document)



Learn more about Substitute Decision Making from our local ACP initiative Conversations Worth Having

www.acpww.ca