

WAST DNACPR Task and Finish Group

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Project method

Misconceptions surrounding a DNACPR document are all too often seen in the pre hospital environment. As the document is an instruction of the patient's wishes at a time when they no longer have capacity, the purpose of this project was to ensure WAST upholds those wishes wherever possible. Any misinterpretation of the document by a clinician can lead to distress for the relatives and careers of that patient. Case studies were gathered, liaison with every ambulance service within the UK was carried out in order to seek out best practice, followed by a multi-disciplinary group being assembled to put together an educational delivery programme internally and for sharing with external stakeholders such as out of hours GP's and nursing homes.

Project results/evaluation

As a result of this work WAST has committed to ensure mandatory refresher training is delivered to all WAST clinicians to improve understanding. WAST is also currently in the process of setting up an improved electronic database system that will allow for fast and accurate checks to be carried out regarding if a DNACPR is in situ and changes have been made nationally to the call taking process to eliminate the distress caused by the giving out of inappropriate CPR instructions when a DNACPR is in situ.

Project area classification

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| Hospital care | | Emergency care | X |
| GP care | X | Dementia | |
| Social care | | Learning disability | |
| Voluntary sector | | Other mental health | |
| Financial services | | Palliative care | X |
| Police | | Advance planning, LPAs | X |
| Legal | | Commissioning | |
| Community health care | X | Training | X |
| Nursing and care home | X | For professionals? | X |
| Acute care | X | For public and service users? | X |
| Chronic care | X | | |