ADVANCE CARE PLANNING TERMINOLOGY

Advance Directives

- Prior directives by the patient for his or her health care
- Fall into two categories:
  1) Those that have to do with instructions for medical care
  2) Those that have to do with designating a proxy for the patient

Instructional Directives for care can be recorded in a number of types of documents:

- A living will is usually a simple statement asking for no heroic care in case of poor prognosis. A personal letter may also be used
- A values history is a statement of values regarding health care in life-threatening illness situations
- A medical directive is a set of instructions based on likely scenarios of illness, goals for care, and specific treatments, combined with a general values statement. It is also combined with a proxy designation section

Health Care Proxy

- A person who is empowered to make decisions in the place of the patient
- Also known as a durable power-of-attorney for health care

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