



# Effective Health Care

## Decision Aids for Advance Care Planning

### Nomination Summary Document

#### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The topic, *Decision Aids for Advance Care Planning*, is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available at this time; however, it will be considered for a potential technical brief by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.
- To see a description of a technical brief, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-for-policymakers-researchers-and-others/>.
- If this topic is developed into a technical brief, the protocol will be posted on the AHRQ Web site. To sign up for notification when this and other EHC Program topics are posted, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

#### Topic Description

**Nominator(s):** Individual

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator is interested in understanding the impact of decision aids on advance care planning for persons with chronic illness. For the purposes of this brief, we have employed the definition of decision aid as defined by the International Patient Decision Aid Standards (IPDAS) Collaboration: "Patient decision aids are tools designed to help people participate in decision making about health care options. They provide information on the options and help patients clarify and communicate the personal value they associate with different features of the options. Patient decision aids do not advise people to choose one option over another, nor are they meant to replace practitioner consultation. Instead, they prepare patients to make informed, values-based decisions with their practitioner."

#### Staff-Generated PICO

**Population(s):** Patients with severe chronic disease and their caretakers

**Intervention(s):** Advance care planning decision aids for end-of-life care

**Comparator(s):** Current practice (no decision aid), or alternative decision aid

**Outcome(s):** Patient and/or caretaker satisfaction with decision; completion of (or change in) a living will/advanced directive/other advance care plan

**Key Questions from Nominator:** Will a decision aid, using individualized estimates of outcomes, help shared decision-making about advance care planning?

## Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- A review of the literature identified published and ongoing clinical trials were directly relevant to the topic; but the types of decision aids used and the populations of interest were varied and diverse, thus making it difficult to synthesize the studies.
- Due to the decision aid diversity, a technical brief that will provide a framework for the characterization of the various types of decision aids and the patient populations in which they are being used, could be used to gain a better understanding the current evidence base and inform future studies.