

# Quality News

Quality and Patient Safety Department  
Galway Clinic, Doughiska, Galway Co. Ireland

Area  
of  
Focus

## Area of Focus: DNR Advance Healthcare Directives

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**End of Life.** It is difficult to see end of life care beyond conventional medical intervention, but hospice and palliative care introduced a more holistic approach, providing quality of life for the dying and their families. Galway clinic has been compassionate with the practical application of policies in conformance of taking care patient's legal requirements. The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act (ADMA) 2015 provides a statutory framework for individuals to make legally-binding agreements to be assisted and supported in making decisions about their welfare and their property and affairs. This assistance and support is particularly required where the person lacks, or may lack, the capacity to make the decision unaided. A number of new arrangements are covered by the Act, including Assisted Decision-Making and Co-Decision Making. A process is also set out for the court to appoint a Decision-Making representative for an individual. Advance Healthcare Directives are introduced into law for the first time.

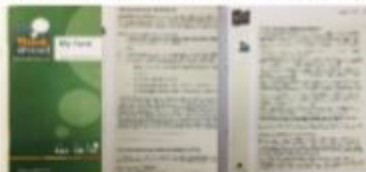
### Introduction

DNR, Advance Healthcare Directives is one of the Area of Focus identified by Quality & Patient Safety Department in Galway Clinic. With this, a Seminar was organized on November 14, 2019 in Conference Room attended by multidisciplinary team who are involved in patient care and end of life care.

Introduction of the newly revised policy was presented by Ms. Alyson Banks "Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/Do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNACPR) /Preferred terminology: Allow a Natural Death (DNACPR-AND) Policy". This policy revision was in collaboration with Dr. Jan Steiner & Dr. Kathleen Cronin applying the updates on the National updates on legal & statutory requirements in Ireland.

Assisted Decision Making Capacity Act of 2015 was briefly introduced by Ms. Caoimhe Gleeson - National Programme Lead on Assisted Decision Making. Afterwards, Rebecca Lloyd IHF well explained the "Think Ahead Programme".

The session began from 9am to 1pm with numerous concerns and areas of improvement mentioned. Further discussions and meeting will be done to improve the mentioned policy.



The benefits of Thinking Ahead and things to consider answers the following questions:

- What if a day comes when you are unable to make decisions for yourself?
- What if you are suddenly taken ill, are involved in an accident or lose your ability to think clearly or independently?
- Do your closest family member or friends really know your wishes?

The Think Ahead Form is a planning document for use by adults at all life stages. It helps you to think about discuss and record your preferences regarding all aspects of your end of life care. It encourages you to ensure that those closest to you are aware of these preferences. A time may come when you are unable to express your wishes and preferences. By using Think Ahead, your wishes will be clear to those caring for you or managing your affairs.

Finally, there are many different factors, such as age and illness that can change your

**STATEMENT.** The position of the Galway Clinic is to provide individualized person-centered care which either include providing resuscitative measures and life sustaining treatments if appropriate or not attempting resuscitative measures and life sustaining treatments thereby allowing natural death to occur. Decisions are based upon the patient's wishes and medical professional opinion. The Galway Clinic has adapted the BMA/Resuscitation Council/RCN Framework, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2016, as guide to decision making.

The ADMA is a new legislation that allows for the reform of Irish Law relating to persons who require, or may require assistance in exercising their decision making capacity, either immediately or in the future. It allows for the establishment of the Decision Support Service that operates within the Mental Health Commission.



**"It's about doing things "with" people, not "on people."**  
- Allan Kellehear, Professor of End of Life Care