Let Me Decide

This pilot study is examining the feasibility of implementing an advance care planning (ACP) programme using the ‘Let Me Decide’ advance care directive (ACD) in three long-term care (LTC) facilities. It includes delivery of a palliative care educational programme for staff and assesses the effect of the programme on the quality of the end-of-life (EOL) experience. Data are being collected from chart review of deceased residents, survey of bereaved relatives and a survey of staff using a newly developed tool to assess staff perceptions of the EOL experience. A survey of LTC staff has been carried out to assess their attitudes and barriers to ACP and ACDs and to determine educational needs of staff in relation to ACP. E-learning modules on ACP and palliative care are being developed in conjunction with the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care to facilitate the sustainable delivery of the educational components of this programme (this pilot study is funded by the Irish Hospice Foundation).