Shared Decision-Making in the Healthcare and Advance Care Planning

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**Introduction**

Medicine and healthcare are important areas or fields that play a very vital role in almost every human’s life. All the areas or subfields related to the profession of healthcare and medicine like nursing, pharmacy, and many others are equally sensitive as much as they are important, due to their direct dealing with the human lives. Even the slightest negligence from the side of medical professional can push the patient down the valley of death. Although a proper diagnosis and medication are the most important things for the speedy recovery of patient, there are some other things that also go side by side in order to cure the patient completely. These factors are mainly composed of care, nutrition, age, and communication. Communication between the patient and the medical practitioner poses to be one of the most important factors that determine the nature of the treatment and the time required for the recovery of the patient. Especially if the communication is shared (open between the medical practitioner and the patient) the process becomes much smooth and fast.

**Discussion**

**Effect of Healthcare Communication Topic (Shared Decision-Making in the Healthcare and Advance Care Planning)**

Advance Healthcare Planning, also referred to as ACP, is an essential factor between the medical practitioner and the patient, especially in the case of some serious or long term illness. ACP determines the level of healthcare that a patient requires in a longer period of time especially after they are discharged from the hospital or medical facility. Shared decision making comes in very handy when the patient is unable to make any decision on their own (Ankuda, et. al., 2014). Hence the administration or the doctor consults the family of the patient so that a best decision can be taken for best interest of patient.

**Scenario Example of Shared Decision-Making in the Healthcare and Advance Care Planning**

A perfect example of shared decision-making can be taken in the form of a patient suffering from Alzheimer’s, in which case the physician takes the advice from the patient themselves and their family regarding the long term care. The opinion of the patient does not matter that much in this case as much as the family’s opinion is important. The family tells the patterns of improvement or decline in the patient’s condition and the physician then decides to continue with the present therapies or not.

**Importance or Impact of Healthcare Communication Topic (Shared Decision-Making in the Healthcare and Advance Care Planning)**

Shared decision-making in the case of healthcare, especially Advanced Care Planning holds great importance as it easies the decision-making process for the patient and/or the family of the patient. Moreover, it also makes it easy for the medical practitioner especially physicians to decide which kind of treatment to continue for the patient in their best interest (Hajizadeh, Uhler, & Pérez Figueroa, 2015). The shared decision-making process also makes it convenient for the physician to easily convey their concerns to the patient and this family and then take their opinion that what to do and what not.

**Conclusion**

Hence, in a nutshell, it can be concluded that shared decision making plays a very positive, in fact, a very vital role in the speedy recovery of the patient. A smooth two-way communication ensures that the patient is receiving a maximum level of care and family of the patient and patient itself is satisfied with this care. The quality of shared decision making also determines quality of healthcare for the patient, as this quality is directly proportional to the shared decision-making level. No matter what, shared decision-making only results in the favor of the patient, their family, and the medical practitioner.

**References**

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