

PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY AND PEDIATRIC MEDICINE

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Awareness of legal needs and rights of patients 18+ in a pediatric setting

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Adolescents and Young Adult (AYA) care in a pediatric setting-- As pediatric Hospitals continue to serve an increasing number of patients who fall in the 18 years of age/adult category, knowledge of all bedside and patient support staff regarding Advance Directives, Protected Health Information disclosure and other legal necessities for adult patients is becoming increasingly important in order to honor the patient's wishes regarding directions and decisions related to their medical care and to honor the legal right of adult patients to make valid decisions about future medical care and appoint a decision-maker on their behalf. Standardized staff education about advanced directives and power of attorney fosters open discussion about medical decision preferences amongst bedside providers. Standardized staff education about Protected Health Information (PHI) with regard to adult patients raises the necessary awareness of bedside providers to pay attention to whom they are having medical discussions with regarding the adult patient. Easy access to pertinent documents within the EMR is necessary to ensure that a widely varied treatment team is aware of the patient's preferences. Intradepartmental education is beneficial for promoting a programmatic culture shift with increased awareness that AYAs may have specific preferences for dissemination of medical/psychological information to their families.

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