Characteristics of Mortality Cases with Advance Care Planning Issues

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Background

The UCLA Department of Medicine (DOM) Rapid Mortality Review (RMR) is an innovative in-person, near real-time review of all deaths to capture the unique insight of the care providers into aspects of end-of-life care quality that otherwise go undocumented and unreported.

Purpose

Examine characteristics of mortality cases (n=498) that are more likely to have advance care planning (ACP) issues identified during RMR between October 2012 to May 2016.

Methods

- Primary analysis of a mortality database with SPSS software, version 23.
- Descriptive statistics completed for frequency and crosstabs of each variables.
- Pearson Chi-Square test performed for statistical significance (p<0.05) between cases with ACP issues.
- A binary logistic regression with "Enter" method to analyze the characteristics of mortality that were statistically significant for ACP issues.

Results

- Preventability of Death
- Transfer Patient
- Palliative Care
- Comfort Care
- DNR/DNI at Death
- Expected Death at Death
- GOC at Day of Death
- GOC at Admission
- GOC at Outpatient
- UCLA PCP Patient
- Length of Stay (LOS)
- Gender
- Chronic Medical Condition
- Acute Medical Complication
- Other
- Infection
- Harm Prior to Hospitalization
- Primary Cause of Death

Discussion

- The results of logistic regression examined characteristics of mortality cases that are more likely to have ACP issues.
- Strong associations were seen for female gender (OR: 1.601; 95% CI: 1.011-2.536; p=.045), longer length of stay (OR: 1.014; 95% CI: 1.003-1.025; p=.016) and primary reason for mortality infection (OR: 2.02; 95% CI: 1.144-3.567; p=.015) or acute medical (p=.04).
- All other variables were not significantly associated with ACP issues, including: older age, transfer patient, preventability, UCLA patient with primary care physician, goals of care discussion in the outpatient setting, DNR/DNI at admission and time of death, and palliative care consult.

Conclusion

- The findings of this primary data analysis demonstrate some characteristics of mortality cases that will more likely have ACP issues.
- Further study could investigate the etiology of the gender association, whether improved ACP reduces lengths of stay, and the potential benefit of more universal ACP.

Contact

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