Serving Special Populations: Palliative Care Patients

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What is the Goal of Palliative Care?

Focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness—whatever the diagnosis*.

The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family—to relieve suffering and provide the best possible quality of life for both the patient and their family utilizing a team approach.

Legal advocacy can be a very important aspect of achieving this goal!

*Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC)
Typical Palliative Care Referral

What is the process?

Written consent before provider can give the name and phone number to the attorney?

Or

Is the provider simply facilitating the contact?
HIPAA concerns

Routinely obtain written consent or is verbal consent ok?

Barriers to Services vs Protection of the Institution?

Making the case to the institution’s privacy officer: Review of the HIPAA rules

Disclosure standard- can disclose if patient will be harmed
Barriers vs. Protection

Conclusions?