

Goals of Care overview

The need to develop a clear, consistent and effective approach to establish the goals of medical care for patients admitted into West Australian hospitals, has resulted in the development of a state-wide Goals of Patient Care Summary (MROOH.1). This clinical document, developed by an expert working group in July 2017 prompts and facilitates proactive shared decision making between treating clinicians, patients and their families.

These conversations are essential to plan medical treatment which would be applied in the event of clinical deterioration. Use of this simple clinical tool aims to improve the delivery of care congruent with patient opinion, preferences, needs and values. It establishes the most medically appropriate, realistic, agreed goal of patient care that will apply in the event of clinical deterioration, during an episode of care. Goals of Care will change over time, particularly at points of transition, during advancing illness, at the diagnosis of life limiting illness and at entry to the end-of-life and terminal phase of illness.

This care planning process captures and documents the patients preferences for care during clinical deterioration and describes wherever possible their values and preferences including any limitations to treatment for the current admission or during planned extended use (beyond the admission). It is also hoped that use of this clinical document will further support improvement in the take up of Advance Care Planning by West Australians.

It is intended that the use of the Goals of Care across the WA Health system will improve satisfaction, quality of life and reduce patient exposure to unwanted/non beneficial treatments.

