



Information Sheet

Making the Decision

The decision whether or not to provide food and fluids to the dying person should be carefully considered. If the person has an Advanced Care Plan perhaps this has been addressed and those wishes should be followed. Barring that, a competent SDM will make these ultimate decisions. It is wise to discuss this in detail with your primary care provider or clinical members of the Palliative Care Team and always consider what goal you are trying to achieve as with any treatment decision. And carefully consider the pros and cons of the decision.

Healthcare professionals have a responsibility to provide you with information to make an informed decision and ensure that the decision is made by a person that is competent. A competent decision must be respected.

Needs to be considered

- Information about what is happening (using plain language)
- Practical comfort measures
- Physical signs of caring
- Familiar items and environment
- Assurance they will not be abandoned
- Assurance they will be remembered
- Respect for individuality and dignity
- Share feeling and anxieties

Especially for persons with ID / DD

Specifically, when working with people with Intellectual Disabilities you need to take steps to minimize fear and anxiety at the end of life. As this can all be quite confusing to the person, be sure to provide adequate information in simple terms to help them understand what is happening and what they can expect.

Always ensure you provide the practical comfort measures (such as pain relief) but also be certain to provide physical signs of caring such as simple, appropriate touch and surrounding them with items that are familiar and comforting.

Provide them with assurances that someone will be with them, they are not alone and that they are cared for.

[Information Sheet No. ACEoLP9 has a corresponding Challenge Sheet No. R-ACEoLP9]



Haldimand & Norfolk Seniors Partnership

Advanced Care and
End-of-Life-Planning

No. ACEoLP9

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