

ABSTRACT

The patient's autonomy is very important part of medical and nursing practice and every patient should have a right to express their opinion about their treatment. Advance directives give person an opportunity to express even in situations when it is not possible to communicate with others. Although it is possible to write advance directives in the Czech Republic only negligible percentage of people take advantage of this possibility. Why is it so?

I have set two goals in my thesis. My first goal is to determine the awareness of the general public about the advance directives in the Czech Republic and also I want to find out awareness about the possibility to appoint a guardian as a mediator of fulfilment of advance directives of an individual. It is also my goal to discover whether respondents would welcome greater awareness of this topic. My second objective is to determine the attitudes of respondents to the problematics of advance directives. I want to discover if the respondents have ever dealt with the idea of being in a situation which they could not communicate with their environment and if they would like to have an opinion to decide about their treatment and also if they would like to name their mediator.

I would like to provide the results of my thesis to the department of quality control and safety in the hospital within the framework of improving the quality of patient's care and I would also like to publish them in specialized journal. The result of my thesis may be an initiative for another research.

keywords:

advance directives, doctor, patient, respondents, informed agreement and disagreement