

Palliative Care Advisory Council

08/15/2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://lhcf-org.zoom.us/j/83575070795?pwd=cm9pV2lmS2F1UTRQK0daaEJzdEFidz09>

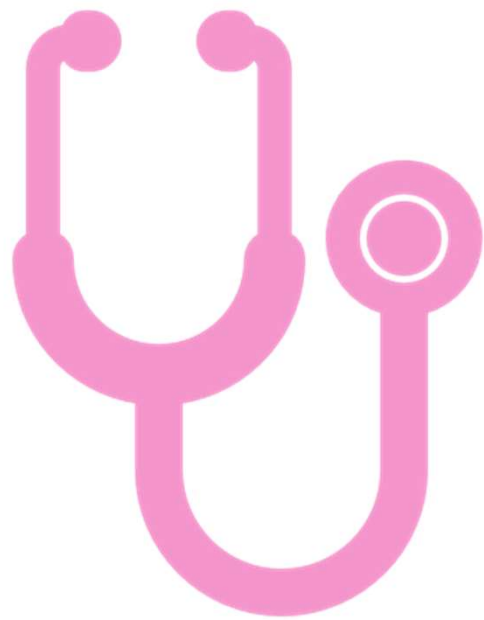
Meeting ID: 835 7507 0795
Passcode: 993234

Agenda

Item number	Topic	Presenter(s)
1	Coverage for ACP from all the insurance companies especially in light of CMS mandate https://www.johnahartford.org/dissemination-center/view/cms-passes-new-2025-age-friendly-hospital-measure	Susan Nelson MD
2	Louisiana Voices	Susan Nelson MD/Cindy Munn
3	Legislative and Regulatory updates PCIAC through 2025 Living Will/LaPOST registry Ketamine discussion with LSBN	Susan Nelson MD
4	Appointment to PCIAC updates?	

Coverage for ACP from all insurance companies in Louisiana

- ▶ This has been an ongoing discussion with BCBSLA for important work being done for BCBSLA beneficiaries.
- Medicaid and all payors covers 99497 and 99498 **except commercial BCBSLA since 2022.**
- There has been some confusion about advance care planning being included in the annual wellness visit for Medicare beneficiaries AND IT IS! However, there are many additional times when patients are ILL that this other CPT code is relevant and IMPORTANT.
- This code is used in the office and in the hospital when needing to have extended conversations when patients have a serious illness,
 - who may not have previously considered their health care options and have critical health care decisions to make,
 - those who have ACP planning needs that involve family members (such as patients with early dementia or mental health concerns), and
 - individuals who lack decision making capacity (developmentally disabled adults) or authority (minor children) and must rely on guardians or parents for decision making.



Advance Directive Registry Louisiana

Susan Nelson MD

Chair, Palliative Care Advisory
Council, State of Louisiana

Chair, LaPOST Coalition

Louisiana Health Care Quality
Forum

What do we know?

- ▶ Advance directives are legal documents that are usually written in advance of illness and before a patient cannot speak for themselves.
- ▶ These conversations and documents are a gift to the family to help understand medical decisions when the patient can no longer speak for themselves.
- ▶ Advance care planning discussions allow the patient, family and health care team to honor the patient's goals and values so the care they want or is possible is the care they receive.
- ▶ Goal directed care provides much relief to the family and the health care team.

END OF LIFE REGISTRY PROGRAMS

<https://www.sos.la.gov/OurOffice/EndOfLifeRegistries/Pages/default.aspx>

Will registry and Living Will Registry information here

Living Will Declaration

At the direction of the Louisiana Legislature (La. R.S. 40:1299.58.1-10, Act 382 of 1984, effective July 6, 1985, as amended), the Secretary of State's Office maintains a registry of living will declarations in which any adult person may make a written declaration directing the withholding or withdrawal of life sustaining procedures in the event such person should have a terminal and/or irreversible condition. We accept the original, a multiple original or a certified copy of the declaration, either from the declaring person or his authorized attorney. The fee to register a declaration is \$20, and an additional \$20 if you would like a certified copy. The fee to file a notice of revocation of a declaration is \$5. When a living will declaration is filed, a laminated wallet ID card and an engraved "Do Not Resuscitate" bracelet are provided to the declarant, indicating that the living will declaration is on file in our office. We provide copies of declarations when requested by any attending physician or health care facility.

We do not provide forms to prepare a "Specific Medical Procedure" living will and suggest that those who are interested in preparing such should contact an attorney. However, you may obtain a blank declaration form (as provided by the Louisiana Legislature La. R.S. 40:1151.2); download and print [Living Will Declaration Form](#). You may also view the [alphabetical list of living will declaration registrations](#).

Please send the appropriate Will Registry or Living Will Declaration Form and filing fee to:

Louisiana Secretary of State
Elections Services
P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

If there are any questions regarding these registries, please [send us a message](#) or call 225.922.0900.

Forms can be accessed here

(other forms including handwritten documents are legal)

- ▶ <https://www.sos.la.gov/OurOffice/PublishedDocuments/LivingWillDeclarationForm.pdf>
- ▶ List of people with a document filed is here:
 - ▶ The LIST is available online but not the document and only M-F 8-5 no holidays
 - ▶ <https://www.sos.la.gov/OurOffice/PublishedDocuments/LivingWillRegistry.pdf>
 - ▶ 255 pages of names in alphabetical order

Rule about OMV and living will declarations and organ donation

- ▶ <https://public.powerdms.com/ladpsc/documents/368271>
- ▶ “Living Will” Declaration
- ▶ All Motor Vehicle field offices shall have the current approved LIVING WILL declaration document available. (DPSMV2011)
- ▶ The individual should follow the instructions provided on the declaration form or contact the Secretary of State's Publication Division (225.922.0900) for information as it pertains to the Living Will.
- ▶ The Office of Motor Vehicles will not assume responsibility of forwarding the declaration (to the registry or anywhere else).
- ▶ There is a check box on the back of the drivers license that says you have one but is not connected to any repository

LaPOST

- ▶ Set of portable medical orders for a patient with a life limiting illness
- ▶ Only for people with serious illness and frailty
- ▶ Anticipate life span of 6 months
- ▶ Think of it as a prescription that can be followed by other medical personnel
- ▶ This is completed by a physician and kept with the patient but should be available to all medical personnel in a registry.
- ▶ LHCQF has ended the LaPOST registry using Vynca technology.
- ▶ Working on a statewide solution.

Louisiana **VOICE**

Make Your Voice Heard
Louisiana or
Voices of Louisiana

VOICE Louisiana— Volunteers
Operating to InClude Everyone in
Health Care Decisions

*An initiative of the Louisiana Health Quality Forum
and the Serious Illness Coalition*

Our Vision is

A state where everyone can document their goals, preferences & values for healthcare and have them stored in a global, secure repository that is accessible by healthcare providers 24/7

Our Mission is

To normalize the completion of advance care plans for all residents of Louisiana and provide tools for clinicians to facilitate these plans and access them at critical times.



Goals

- ▶ Establish a singular secure, global, interoperable repository of documents, accessible by providers across the state.
 - ▶ These documents include Living Will, Health Care Power of Attorney, Mental Health Directives, and LaPOST (a set of portable medical orders for people with serious illness and/or frailty)
- ▶ Make it easy for providers to access existing and facilitate new ACPs and Portable Medical Orders (LaPOST) within existing EHR workflows
- ▶ Provide multiple options to make it easier for people to create their plans, including family discussion guides, multiple languages, etc.
- ▶ Enable ACPs to be stored in the LA Wallet along with individuals' driver's licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, SMART Health Card, Medicaid Health Plan Care, My Vehicles and Concealed Handgun Permit

Role of Leadership Team

- ▶ To be passionate about ACP, and knowledgeable about healthcare and the community.
- ▶ To be well-connected to the Louisiana healthcare community's organizations, systems, and facilities.
- ▶ To influence these community leaders to support and facilitate this initiative.
- ▶ To serve as a sounding board for this work, creating visibility and expediting its implementation.
- ▶ To support the “asks” for financial support as needed.

Possible sources of funds - there is an ROI!!!

- ▶ Possible state Medicaid matching funds with CMS
- ▶ Governors Office of Elderly Affairs (\$35 million budget)
- ▶ Secretary of State- Budget line item (state registry)
- ▶ Payors have most to gain by providing only beneficial care based on patient goals and values
 - ▶ Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Louisiana or Foundation
 - ▶ Humana or Humana Foundation
 - ▶ Payors fund their programs
- ▶ Large providers/health systems fund their programs -
- ▶ Funds to be developed cover smaller providers, hospice organizations, community education, etc.

Palliative Care Advisory Council

- ▶ <https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1261551>
- ▶ Sunsets August 1, 2025
- ▶ Do we need to get legislative support to continue this work for an additional 5 years?

Appointing Entities Specified in Act 659	Profession	Additional Credentials Required	Appointee
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in hospice and palliative medicine	Mary Raven, MD
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in hospice and palliative medicine	Sonia Malhotra, MD
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in pain management	Mordecai Potash, MD
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in pediatric palliative medicine	Cori Morrison, MD
LA State Board of Nursing	Registered nurse	Board Certified in hospice and palliative care	Christine Guidry, RN
LA State Board of Nursing	Advanced practice RN	Board Certified in hospice and palliative care	Deborah Bourgeois, APRN
LA State Board of Nursing	Advanced practice RN	Board Certified in hospice and palliative care	Karen Lyon, APRN
LA Board of Pharmacy	Pharmacist	Experience providing palliative care	Richard Mannino
LA State Board of Social Work Examiners	Social Worker	Experience providing palliative care	Edgar Guedry, MSW
LDH Medicaid		Non-voting	Justin Owens
LDH Designee		Non-voting	Elizabeth Adkins
Governor	Palliative Care Provider Administrator or Director	Current operational experience managing a palliative care program	Susan Nelson, MD
Governor	Spiritual care professional	Experience with providing palliative care	Moved out of state
Governor	Insurance plan administrator	Experience in reimbursement coverage and claims processing for palliative care	Dr. Deidre Barfield
Governor	Patient/family advocate	Must be independent of a hospital or other healthcare facility	Janet Pugh Foret (pending official re- appointment)
Governor	Patient/family advocate	Must be independent of a hospital or other healthcare facility	Trey Gibson
Governor	Patient/family advocate	Must be independent of a hospital or other healthcare facility	Debra Merritt (pending official appointment)

► Membership in Palliative Care Advisory Board-members appointed by Governor Edwards will need to be reappointed by Governor Landry!

Ketamine discussion/awareness

► Palliative medicine and emergency medicine physicians across the state are requesting that the LSBN allow registered nurses to administer sub-anesthetic doses of Ketamine under a physician's order in hospital settings. Current law and LSBN interpretation only allow for CRNAs to touch Ketamine.

► **The ask to the LSBN is to distinguish between anesthetic dosing and sub-anesthetic dosing of Ketamine.**

► Initial: 0.25 to 0.5 mg/kg bolus (maximum bolus: 35 mg), followed by 0.05 to 0.25 mg/kg/**hour** continuous infusion in patients who need a longer duration of analgesia; titrate to pain goal and tolerability; usual dosing range: 0.05 to 1 mg/kg/**hour**;

► The American Society of Hematology Sickle Cell pain guidelines can be found here <https://ashpublications.org/bloodadvances/article/4/12/2656/460974/> and make the following recommendations:

► **Recommendation 2c.**

► For *adults and children* presenting with acute pain related to SCD who are hospitalized, the ASH guideline panel *suggests* a subanesthetic (analgesic) ketamine infusion as adjunctive treatment of pain that is refractory or not effectively treated with opioids alone (conditional recommendation based on very low certainty in the evidence about effects ⊕○○○).

► **Remarks:**

- This recommendation assumes safe administration of subanesthetic ketamine infusions in the hospital inpatient unit in centers that have appropriate expertise to administer the drug.
- Recommended dose for subanesthetic (analgesic) infusion for acute exacerbation of SCD pain starts at 0.1 to 0.3 mg/kg per hour with a maximum of 1 mg/kg per hour.
- Currently, there is no standardized, widely accepted definition for the word refractory; therefore, whether pain is considered refractory is determined at the clinician's discretion.

Meeting dates

- ▶ Next meeting November 21, 2024

Definition of Palliative CARE

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1144294>

- ▶ "Palliative care" means an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life threatening illnesses, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual.
- ▶ "Palliative care" services:
 - ▶ (a) Provide relief from pain and other distressing symptoms.
 - ▶ (b) Affirm life and regards dying as a normal process.
 - ▶ (c) Intend neither to hasten or postpone death.
 - ▶ (d) Integrate the psychosocial and spiritual aspects of patient care.
 - ▶ (e) Offer a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death.
 - ▶ (f) Offer a support system to help the family cope during the patient's illness and in their own bereavement.
 - ▶ (g) Use a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families, including bereavement counseling, if indicated.
 - ▶ (h) Will enhance quality of life and may also positively influence the course of illness.
 - ▶ (i) Are applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and includes those investigations needed to better understand and manage distressing clinical complications.

Definition of Palliative Care

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1144294>

- ▶ Include "palliative care for children", which means the care appropriate for children and their families that begins at diagnosis and continues regardless of whether or not the treatment is directed at the disease.
- ▶ "Palliative care for children" requires health providers to evaluate and alleviate a child's physical, psychological, and social distress through a multi-disciplinary approach that includes the family and makes use of available community resources which can be successfully implemented even if resources are limited.
- ▶ "Palliative care for children" includes active total care of the child's body, mind, and spirit and the support given to the family. "Palliative care for children" can be provided in tertiary care facilities, in community health centers, and in children's homes.