



1ER COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL ADVANCE CARE PLANNING (ACP)

ACP dans le monde - ACP en France.

Du concept international à la mise en œuvre française

1ST INTERNATIONAL ADVANCE CARE PLANNING (ACP) SYMPOSIUM

ACP in the world - ACP in France.

From an international context to implementation in France

Paris, vendredi 7 février 2025



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ACP for people with dementia and other life-limiting illnesses: opportunities and challenges

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Liens d'intérêts déclarés par l'intervenant :

Links of interest declared by the intervener :

No conflicts of interest to declare

Paris, 07 février 2025



Context: ACP in Belgium

- Emergence from principles of patient autonomy, patient-centred care, shared decision-making, and continuity of care
- Since 2002: **Law on patient rights**
 - Right to be **represented** during incapacity
 - Right to **informed consent** and to refuse any intervention by a HCP
 - Can be documented



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Fysieke onmogelijkheid:
De verzoeker is niet in staat de wilsverklaring zelf te schrijven.
De reden waarom de verzoeker fysiek blijvend niet in staat is deze negatieve wilsverklaring te schrijven en te ondertekenen is de volgende:

De heer/ mevrouw
wordt aangewezen om deze negatieve wilsverklaring schriftelijk vast te leggen.

De persoonlijke gegevens van de vernoemde persoon zijn de volgende:
Adres

Rijksregisternummer
Telefoonnummer(s)
Geboortedatum en -plaats
Eventuelegraad van verwantschap

Deze verklaring is opgemaakt in ondertekende exemplaren die worden bewaard:

Gedaan te
op

Datum en handtekening van de verzoeker:

Datum en handtekening van de aangewezen persoon die de wilsverklaring heeft opgesteld in plaats van de verzoeker:

Datum en handtekening van de vertegenwoordiger:

Facultatief:
De behandelend arts bevestigt door ondertekening de wilsbekwaamheid van de verzoeker:

Handtekening, datum, en stempel

Indien je lichamelijk niet in staat bent (bv. door verlamming, blindheid,...) om de wilsverklaring zelf op te stellen, kan je een opsteller aanduiden. In dat geval:

- verduidelijkt deze de precieze reden voor deze onmogelijkheid;
- is de opsteller een meerderjarig persoon; dit mag ook de vertegenwoordiger zijn;
- kan je dit eventueel laten attesteren door een behandelend arts.

Hier vermeld je het aantal originele* exemplaren van de wilsverklaring en hun bewaarplaats. Het is aangewezen om zelf een exemplaar te bewaren, een exemplaar te voorzien voor de vertegenwoordiger(s) en een exemplaar te overhandigen aan de behandelend arts(en) opdat zij het kunnen bevoegen aan je medisch dossier.

Om rechtsgeldig te zijn, moet de voorafgaande negatieve wilsverklaring gedateerd zijn en de handtekeningen van alle hierin vermelde personen bevatten.

Hier tekent de aangewezen persoon in jouw plaats wanneer je ten gevolge van een beperking het document niet zelf kan ondertekenen.

De arts die het document ondertekent, bevestigt dat je op weloverwogen wijze de negatieve wilsverklaring hebt opgesteld. Wilsbekwaamheid bij het opmaken is immers een grondvoorwaarde voor een geldige negatieve wilsverklaring. De bevestiging van de arts (hoewel niet verplicht) sluit eventuele twijfel hierover uit.

De negatieve wilsverklaring blijft onbeperkt geldig.
* Een origineel exemplaar hoeft niet helemaal met de hand te worden vervolledigd, maar is een exemplaar dat voorzien werd van authentieke handtekeningen.

<- Model AD with instructions

Several organizations in Belgium offer model documents for advance directives: refusal is valid so long as it is clear, comprehensive, informed, and specific

1 Naam: Jane Doe
Identificatienummer van het Rijksregister: 99.14.12-123.45

2 Verklaart volgende wilsverklaringen te bezitten:

- Euthanasie
- Orgaandonatie
- Wilsverklaring uitvaart

3 Exemplaren ook ter beschikking bij:
Kris van Wemmel
000 00 00 00

<-LEIF pocket card



Recent **policy initiatives**

- **Billing code**, from November 1 2022:
- **Modernized law of patient rights** approved in February 2024:
 - ACP is referred to by name
 - AD and substitute decision maker are specified
 - ACP in the context of respect for patient dignity and autonomy by taking into account goals and values



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ACP has received much attention and promotion in Belgium

NL FR

Autres informations et services officiels: www.belgium.be .be

CITOYEN ▾

MES VIEUX JOURS .BE

DOCUMENTS DE SOUHAITS

ACCUEIL OSER EN PARLER PERSONNE DE CONFIANCE, MANDATAIRE/REPRÉSENTANT DÉCLARATIONS ANTICIPÉES

PARLEZ À TEMPS DE VOS VIEUX JOURS.

Ce sont des discussions qui comptent.

Paris, 07 février 2025



Research focus of ACP literature:

- Directive-driven → Process-oriented
- Decision-making in serious illness is complex and changes over time
- ACP should have a whole-system approach: involve patient, family, and clinicians



ACP for people with dementia:

- Disease course is difficult to predict
- Patients with dementia benefit from palliative care, but are an underserved group
- ACP: a central domain of optimized palliative care in dementia



ACP for people with dementia

- Specific definition for people with dementia since 2024:
- ***“ACP is a process of communication about future care and treatment preferences, values and goals with the person with dementia, family, and the health care team, preferably with ongoing conversations and documentation. This process is continued when the person with dementia becomes unable to make their own decisions.” (van der Steen, 2024)***
- While important to discuss with HCP: people with dementia and their family caregivers also want to discuss ACP together



ACP for people with dementia

- There is a need for a process-oriented approach (not only focusing on ‘fixing’ advance directives) and for flexibility and tailoring this approach and the timing of it (person-centred!)

*“I think that it is especially important to do it step by step. To start building up each phase **slowly and to be able to talk about it in a very transparent and calm way, and to build up quietly and yes give the person also the space to find out for himself and to have input.** We didn't have that, that was very difficult for us.”*

(Family caregiver)

- Several personal (e.g. living-in-the-moment attitude) and contextual barriers (eg. lack of information on ACP, on prognosis; inadequate care options in YOD) hinder engaging in ACP in practice.

*“**There is information, but you always have to find it yourself.... Information is the first important step [in ACP].**” (Family caregiver)*



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ACP for people with dementia: support via the use of technology:

- **eHealth tools** can support communication between people with dementia and their family
- **Digital exclusion:** due to cognitive impairment, unfamiliarity
→ Need for tailored support, education, and accessible design

Vroegtijdige zorgplanning (VZP) & dementie

Nu nadenken en praten over later



© Laurane Berkein - Vlaamse Ouderenraad

Deze website is bedoeld om mensen met dementie en hun naasten te helpen bij vroegtijdige of voorafgaande zorgplanning. De website is ontwikkeld voor iedereen die in aanraking komt met dementie.

Veel mensen die te maken krijgen met een ziekte, stellen zich wel eens vragen over hoe de toekomst zal zijn.

- Wat als ik niet langer voor mezelf kan zorgen?
- Waar zou ik wensen te wonen?
- Wie zou er het best voor mij zorgen?
- Welke behandelingen zou ik nog willen krijgen, welke niet, en op welk moment?

Vroegtijdige zorgplanning is bedoeld om jou te helpen een antwoord te vinden op deze



ACP for people with dementia: support via the use of technology:

- **Before using the website:**

- Participants saw ACP often as financial planning and proxy decision maker

- **After using the website:**

- People with dementia and family caregivers felt confident about their ability to start advance care planning
- They initiated conversations with family and healthcare professionals
- Wanted to use the website in the future to discuss topics “that are too far in the future”

- **Discussed mostly social needs (e.g. seeing friends, working in the garden)**



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ACP for people with **life-limiting illnesses** (cancer, COPD, organ failure, ...)

- Challenging: thinking about the serious illness and end of life can be upsetting
- Patients anticipate clinicians will talk about it → **who will do it?**
- Patients feel they **do not know enough about ACP** or healthcare choices

→ Trusting relationships, open conversation, honest information needed



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Clinician challenges:

- Insufficient time, knowledge, skills, resources
 - Do not want to take away hope
 - Diffusion of responsibility: **who signals it?**
- Experience, training to build skills and confidence
- Different professions and roles contribute strengths



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Example from an ACP trial in Belgian general practice: ACP-GP



**MIJN WENSEN VOOR
TOEKOMSTIGE ZORG**

The ACP-GP intervention aims to...

- Train GPs in ACP communication skills
- Prepare patients for ACP conversations
- Introduce ACP in consultations
- Document ACP conversations



- ACP is reframed:
 - Positive approach: What is important to live well? What matters to you?
- The process is facilitated:
 - GPs learn useful information about patient experiences and values
 - Patients think about future health, values, wishes

Patient: “You start seeing it differently.”

Interviewer: “Yes, and in what way?”

Patient: “Yes, what could happen. Or what you’ll be confronted with. That, that, I wouldn’t think about that otherwise, now you think about that.”



GPs and patients feel trust, reassurance, and peace of mind

In the meantime, I've been able to apply that a few times, and express it to the family for example. Someone who is palliative and unable to speak anymore, if you can express it that way, you notice it brings about a sense of peace: "That's true, our dad..." Then everyone is at peace with it and they stand behind your approach. (GP)

Patient: "Yes. That's a big reassurance for me."

Interviewer: "Yes, yes. So you feel reassured that..."

Patient: "That I can count on [the GP] if something happens, yes."



Barriers still remain:

- ACP can be confronting: “Is my health condition that serious already?”
- ACP may not seem relevant
- Clinicians need time and preparation

If you already got it down or if it were less important, you might say, “I’ll just do it quickly and we will see.’ But if you start and it doesn’t go well, then you’re better off not doing it. (GP)



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- Different illness trajectories → different needs and opportunities
- But also shared barriers:
 - Focusing on **living well now**
 - Worries about **emotional impact** on loved ones
 - ACP still associated with **end of life**
 - Feelings of **not knowing enough** about the illness or care options



Key findings and lessons:

- **Raising awareness** of ACP is an important first step
- ACP is about much more than documentation
- There is rarely a « perfect moment »
 - Pre-planned ACP conversation
 - Responding in-the-moment to signals
- If clinicians are willing and confident → the clinical practice context needs to support them



Normalize ACP as part of quality patient-centred care:

- Include ACP into broader conversations about life planning
- Introduce ACP early in the illness trajectory
- Empower patients in shared decision-making
- Help patients and their families find the way to information and tools
- Show a positive attitude and openness
- **Be flexible!**



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<https://www.vroegtijdigezorgplanningbijdementie.be/>

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