

# **Substitute Decision Making and End of Life Planning: Hot Topics from a Care Provider Perspective**

**Canadian Conference on Elder Law  
October 29-30, 2010**

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# SCENARIO 1

## ELDERLY FEMALE PATIENT

- **Son is substitute decision maker**
- **Patient lives with son who states he cannot manage her**
- **Potential for elder abuse**
- **Patient insists son have final decision**

## **SCENARIO 2 – 70 YEAR OLD MALE PATIENT**

- **Used to live with daughter**
- **Daughter has psychiatric history**
- **Son does not want sister to visit**
- **Son has power of attorney for personal care**

## **SCENARIO 3 – 80 YEAR OLD WOMAN**

- **Has a 50 yr. old male friend who befriended her in a coffee shop**
- **Daughter has had power of attorney – current status unsure**
- **Patient defers decisions to male friend**

## **SCENARIO 4 – 90 YEAR OLD POST-STROKE**

- **Patient has mild dementia**
- **Going to long term care**
- **Previously agreed to placement**
- **Now refusing to go – wants to return home**
- **Daughter refusing to take her home**

## **SCENARIO 5 – GRAVELY ILL ELDERLY PATIENT**

- **Family does not want patient to know prognosis**
- **Based on cultural reasons**
- **Patient indicates she wants to know prognosis**

## **SCENARIO 6 – ELDERLY FEMALE PATIENT**

- **Has Restraining Order against husband**
- **Husband trying to obtain power of attorney for finances & personal care**
- **Current PoA is not fulfilling duties due to fear of husband**

# QUESTION

- **Patients being admitted without advance directives/substitute decision makers**
- **Should patients be required to make advance directives on admission?**



# QUESTIONS?

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