A Revista Portuguesa de Pedagogia e a Psychologica quiseram, com esta edição especial conjunta, associar-se às comemorações dos 30 anos da Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade de Coimbra, enquanto parceiras neste caminho de excelência na investigação, no ensino e no serviço. Em breve estas revistas iniciarão novos rumos estratégicos de afirmação, um dos quais será a sua internacionalização. Esta edição espelha já o reconhecimento que a Psicologia, as Ciências da Educação e o Serviço Social da nossa Faculdade colhe nas mais amplas latitudes.

Isabel Festas, Editora Revista Portuguesa de Pedagogia
Eduardo Santos, Editor Psychologica
Advance care planning in participative social work practice

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Introduction: advance care planning’s importance in social work

Advance care planning (ACP), including the related concept of anticipatory care planning, are processes for finding out and recording a client’s preferences for how they want to be cared for or treated by health and social care services in the future. These processes must be distinguished from care planning as part of case or care management in providing care services. ACP is an important development for achieving participatory engagement in social work practice because it enables clients’ preferences to emerge at a stage in clients’ care careers when there is a good chance that they can realistically have impact on resource allocation in later care decisions. Existing practice tends to delay client engagement in decision-making until the point at which resource allocation decisions must be made, when the range of choices may have been reduced by preceding events. Also of significance, ACP is an example of the development of well-researched practice techniques in social work with people who have long-term care needs. Providing services for such people is increasingly a social work role because populations of older people, who are likely to have increased care needs compared with a younger population, are growing in most developed countries. Existing social work practice focuses on behaviour and social change rather than theorising interpersonal practice with long-term care conditions, where most practice innovation has been concerned with care management to coordinate the provision of disparate services.

This paper starts by examining the nature and sources of ACP. An important aspect of recent developments in ACP is a shift from formal, rather legalistic, processes carried out occasionally, mainly to facilitate medical decision-making in the event of mental incapacity at the end of life. This practice is developing towards a more interpersonal, helping and caring process carried out to maintain continuity in help to people receiving long-term care or social work services. The second part of the paper outlines the main sources of ACP practice. Finally, the third part of the paper

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