

WHY DO WE NEED ADVANCE CARE PLANNING IN PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY?



WHAT IS ADVANCE CARE PLANNING?

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is
"a structured model that enables the determination of goals and preferences for future medical treatment" (1). It is a flexible and dynamic tool that adapts to the evolving needs of the patient and their family throughout the cancer journey.



WHY IS ACP IMPORTANT?

ACP facilitates care planning in line with personal values, involving and empowering patients and families throughout the illness trajectory by fostering open and honest communication. It allows for early discussion of physical, psychological, social, and spiritual aspects.

Ultimately, ACP promotes comprehensive, person-centred care.



WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR ACP?

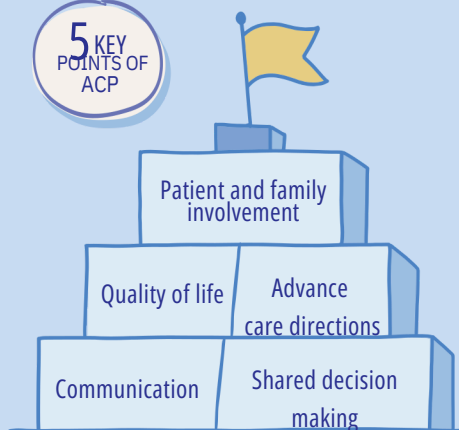
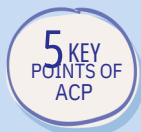
- ⌚ Start early - it's never too soon
- ⌚ It can be done and revisited at any stage of the journey
- 🤝 Build on a trusting and open relationship
- ⌚ Be proactive, not reactive



HOW TO PERFORM ACP?

Some important aspects to consider:

- ☐ Use an institution-approved template
- ☐ Allow enough time for the process - it may require several multidisciplinary meetings
- ☐ Prepare yourself and the family for the conversations
- ☐ Promote shared decision-making, involving the child, adolescent or young adult (CAYA), the family, and the healthcare team
- ☐ Address ethical considerations
- ☐ Ensure that a written plan is available to all teams involved



⁽¹⁾ SIOPE Glossary of terms. A shared language to promote integration. Paediatric oncology and Paediatric Palliative care. 2025.

