

# What does future care planning look like within end-of-life care? A scoping review of the literature

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## Abstract

**Introduction** Future Care Planning is an umbrella term being increasingly applied in palliative care. Future Care Planning has been adopted as part of several national strategies, including NHS Wales and NHS Scotland, albeit with slightly varying definitions. Future Care Planning to improve end-of-life care has been chosen by patient/carer advocates in Wales as a more understandable term. One of its core activities is the traditionally understood advance care planning or anticipatory care planning ethos; importantly it includes and incorporates patients with diminished capacity at the time of information gathering, for whom a best interest approach should be followed. A clear and consistent definition of Future Care Planning would support health and social care professionals working in frailty and palliative care.

**Aims** To scope and identify definitions of 'Future Care Planning' in the existing literature, and describe what a 'Future Care Plan', with regards to end-of-life care and advance care planning, should look like and incorporate.

**Methods** Palliative care Evidence Review Service (PaCERS)<sup>1</sup> methodology with modifications relevant to scoping reviews were used. Four key databases were searched from 1999-July 2024 for relevant published papers. Supplementary sources have also been checked for appropriate studies.

**Results** Of 197 articles identified, 169 articles met the inclusion criteria. Seventy-seven full text articles were screened, and we are currently extracting the data from 27 full text articles included for final review.

**Conclusion** These baseline data will help inform the definition within current workstreams, providing better clarity on definitions with regards to end-of-life care and specific forward planning. Results of this review will be available in time for presentation at the conference.

**Impact** This review will provide a much-needed assessment of Future Care Planning supporting health and social care professionals in practice. We hope our findings will inform a Once for Wales approach to Future Care Planning, particularly around the domains of elderly care and frailty.

## Reference

1. Mann M, Woodward A, Nelson A, Byrne A. Palliative care evidence review service (PaCERS): a knowledge transfer partnership. *Health Res Policy Sys*. 2019;**17**(1):100. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-019-0504-4>