



## Research Article

# Community and hospital-based healthcare professionals perceptions of digital advance care planning for palliative and end-of-life care: a latent class analysis

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## Plain language summary

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In England, a variety of electronic systems is used across health care to hold medical records. This includes recording people's preferences for the care they would like to receive towards the end of life, such as preferred medical interventions, where they may wish to be cared for and where they would like to die. Recording and sharing this information are part of a process called advance care planning, which aims to provide people with medical care that is consistent with their values, goals and preferences during serious and chronic illnesses. While electronic systems are available for recording people's preferences for care, low numbers of health professionals use the systems, with some regional variations.

We conducted an online survey to understand how health professionals view these electronic systems. An online survey was sent to health professionals in West Yorkshire and London who work in hospital and community settings. Community settings included teams based in general practices, hospices, care homes and ambulance services. The survey was completed by 569 health professionals from West Yorkshire and London. Most responses were received from general practice teams (44.6%).

The survey identified differences in the experiences of health professionals based in West Yorkshire and London. Health professionals in West Yorkshire felt more familiar with the electronic systems that were being used for recording patient preferences, and the systems were part of their daily work. This was not reported as much by health professionals in London.

Across the different groups of health professionals, hospice and care home teams were more likely to view the electronic systems as worthwhile and valuable. However, all health professional groups reported challenges with using electronic systems. Future work is needed to ensure electronic systems are easy to access and perceived positively by different health professional groups across the whole of England.