

Table 50: Thompson et al. (2003)⁴³¹

Study	Thompson et al. (2003) ⁴³¹
Aim	To discover the views of health professionals on advance directives.
Population	Healthcare professionals: Twelve participants were interviewed (4 hospital doctors, 4 general practitioners, and 4 nurses). There were also 6 focus groups comprising hospital nurses (in care of the elderly and general medicine), hospice staff, GPs, consultant geriatricians, geriatricians in training grades and an interdisciplinary group (34 persons in total).
Setting	Great Glasgow area, Scotland, UK.
Study design	Semi-structured interviews and focus groups.
Methods and analysis	Interviews lasted 1 hour and focus groups 90 minutes on average. All research encounters were recorded and transcribed verbatim and analysed according to a modified grounded theory approach. This entailed coding of all data for both literal and interpretative meaning with the synthesis of these concepts into the broader themes.
Themes with findings	The only relevant theme from this paper is Advance directive as an agent of communication: The presence of an AD in any clinical situation will induce discussion. This also helps trigger conversations on end-of-life issues that professionals can find difficult to initiate. <i>'...the main advantage of an advance directive is as a tool for communication between the medical staff, the rest of the multi-disciplinary team, the patient and the patient's loved ones.'</i>
Limitations	Serious limitations. The 'modified' grounded theory approach used is not described.
Applicability of evidence	Indirect topic of advanced directives rather than shared decision making. UK setting.