LIFE OR DEATH DECISIONS

Online engagement using film to explore advance care planning
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Within the United Kingdom, despite policy drives to increase the rates of **Advance Care Planning (ACP)** it is not widely used by the general public and there are many misconceptions around ACP.

**The Open University** has a commitment to providing free open educational resources that draw on the research expertise of its staff and are delivered via **OpenLearn**.

Life or Death Decisions is an online interactive that was created at The Open University, together with colleagues from **Elucidat**, to introduce the general public to ACP.

**Results**
Since its launch in September 2018, over 2,000 unique learners have engaged with the interactive (as of February 2020); many are re-visiting the site.

Of these learners, **15%** complete the entire interactive; which takes approximately **10 minutes** to complete.

Most learners are from the United Kingdom. **Almost one in five (16%)** learners are clicking through to find out more about studying death and dying at The Open University.

**Conclusions**
The Life or Death Decisions interactive provides a means to teach the public about advance care planning using a novel and engaging dramatised film. Learner use is comparable with similar interactives via **OpenLearn**.

Viewers select their answer, after which the interactive reveals how others have responded. Brief information, from an expert’s opinion is also provided at key times about ACP and decision-making related to the dilemma.

Issues covered include: should Jane go into hospital, should she have an operation, and who should be involved in the associated decision-making. The interactive provides information about ACP, how it can be done, and who can be involved, including clarifying the concept of ‘next of kin’.

**Methods**
We captured data including: total learners; completion rates; learner country; and time spent using ‘Life or Death Decisions’.

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