

Week 7 Discussion Board

- 1. Discuss the laws in your state related to the nurse practitioner's (NP) role and responsibility in creating and signing ADs. Indicate if the NP can independently complete AD documents or a physician is required to sign or cosign the documents.**
- 2. Consider clients you have encountered in practicum (or your practice as a registered nurse). Identify at least one client who may have benefited from a referral to hospice or palliative care. Indicate why this client would have benefited from these services. Describe how you might approach the conversation with the client as an NP.**
- 3. Discuss at least two recommendations you have for improving palliative and hospice care access to vulnerable and underserved populations in your community.**

Answer:

While researching and reviewing the Pennsylvania Nurse Practitioner's scope of practice, I found it difficult to determine the NP's role and responsibility in creating and signing advance directives. Advance directives are legal documents that allow patients to write their healthcare wishes or appoint someone they trust to make decisions for them if they become incapacitated (Miller, 2017). There are two types of advance directives; the living will and the durable power of attorney for healthcare. A living will allow patients to determine what lifesaving measures they want if they cannot speak on their behalf. The durable power of attorney for healthcare enables patients to appoint an individual to make healthcare decisions if they cannot do so for themselves. In Pennsylvania, Nurse Practitioners must work under a collaboration agreement with a physician, making Pennsylvania a restricted practice state. When collaborating with my preceptor on the NP's role in signing advance directives, she stated that we could independently sign them without a physician. However, there are specific requirements to put advance