Understanding the progressive and terminal nature of the dementia (assessed at baseline: 8 weeks after admission)^a

Families

(1) comprehension of complications
(2) comprehension of prognosis
(3) having been counseled on health problems in later stages
(4) having been counseled on how long the patient may live
(5) perception of dementia as “a disease you can die from”

Physicians

(6) comprehension of prognosis
(7) having counseled how long the patient may live
(8) perception of dementia as “a disease you can die from”^b

Possible mediators

(assessed at, and referring to, various times frames)

Factors affecting family decision making^c

(a) Family attitudes and family-patient relationship
(b) Family – physician (staff) interactions
   - b1 quality of the relationship
   - b2 frequency of contact
   - b3 level of trust in relationship
   - b4 concordance of values and beliefs
(c) Care process
   - c1 palliative care
   - c2 perceived quality of end-of-life care

Outcome

(at patient’s death)

Patient’s comfort