Arizona Physician Survey on EOL
Conducted by ArMA/AOMA Joint Physician Task Force on End of Life Care 2017

**Attitudes**
- 57% discuss EOL w/terminal diagnosis
- 46% discuss EOL when death is imminent
- 37% discuss EOL routinely with elderly
- 85% have not used CPT codes for EOL counseling
- 50% view patient/ family unreadiness as principal deterrent to having EOL conversations
Those with EOL training less deterred (22%)
- 16% feel uncomfortable in pain management
- 56% report EOL care was fulfilling

**Palliative Care**
- 55% make a referral to Palliative Care (PC) for patients with terminal illness
- Barriers to PC referrals:
  - 50% say family not ready
  - 36% Cost/Insurance concerns
  - 29% Lack of PC specialists
  - 52% report no training
  - 42% want training
  - 50% observe “Good Deaths”
  - 77% of those with PC training observe “Good Deaths”

**POLST Attitudes**
- 66% fully support POLST in Arizona
- 23% are unsure
- 3% oppose POLST
- 58% likely to use POLST in their practice
- 77% are interested in education and training on POLST
  - Of those who frequently see patients in EOL situations
    - 86% are interested in education/training

**MAID Attitudes**
- 53% support MAID
- 27% oppose MAID
- 20% undecided
- 47% view MAID as slippery slope
- 37% view it violates oaths to administer lethal dose
- ArMA ethics committee divided on MAID 2018
  - Official ArMA/AoMA position is opposed

**Recommendations**
Provide physician education on communication skills
- Primary Care
- Hospitalists
- Specialty focus
- Do team based training

Educate the public on EOL issues
POLST has broad support and is met with interest
- Provide education & training
Survey Sample

• Email survey sent to 8,000 members of ArMA, AOMA AzACP, MCMS, PCMS; Oct – Dec 2017; Results shared 3/2018
• 588 responses; 466 completed entire survey; margin of error 4.5%
• Funding provided by private donor; professional pollster engaged
• Population Sampled: Physicians interested in EOL issues
• Demographics: 22% 25-45 years; 50% 40-65 years, 28% 66+ years
• Geography: 58% Phoenix area, 25% Tucson; 17% rural/other
• Specialty: 36% Primary Care, 26% Internal Med, 11% Gen Surgery, 6% Pediatrics/OB, 5% PC, 18% Other
• Practice Setting: 29% Hospital; 33% Clinic/Office; 9% Both; 16% Academic; 13% Other
• Training in Palliative Care: 19% Significant; Limited 29%; None 52%
• 68% care for patients near EOL