

**Understanding the progressive and terminal nature of the dementia** (assessed at baseline: 8 weeks after admission)<sup>a</sup>

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”<sup>b</sup>

**Possible mediators**

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

Factors affecting family decision making<sup>c</sup>

- (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