**Additional file 1**

Characteristics of the 8 patients who wrote advance directives

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Age (years) | gender | Housing/relatives | Comorbid conditions | Number of drugs for chronic treatment | Activities of daily living score\* |
| Patient 1 | 86 | Male | Lives in a house with his wife | Diabetes, chronic heart failure‡ | 8 | 5 |
| Patient 2 | 85 | Female | Lives alone in an apartment | chronic heart failure‡, end-stage kidney disease, ankylosing spondylitis | 11 | 6 |
| Patient 3 | 86 | Male | Lives in a house with his wife | chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer‡, chronic kidney disease | 9 | 6 |
| Patient 4 | 78 | Male | Lives in a house with his wife | chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic heart failure‡ | 4 | 6 |
| Patient 5 | 67 | Male | Lives in an apartment with his wife | chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic respiratory failure‡ | 6 | 5 |
| Patient 6 | 69 | Male | Lives in a nursing home | chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic respiratory failure‡, chronic heart failure‡ | 19 | 0.5 |
| Patient 7 | 73 | Male | Lives in an apartment with his wife | chronic heart failure‡, end-stage kidney disease, diabetes | 12 | 6 |
| Patient 8 | 84 | Male | Lives in a house with his wife | chronic heart failure‡, end-stage kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bladder cancer‡ | 16 | 5.5 |

**\*:** Activities of daily living score ranging from 0 (total dependence for all activities of daily living) to 6 (total autonomy for all activities of daily living)

‡: Disease related to a life expectancy of less than five yearsaccording toMcCabe score