

Greater Recognition for the Integral Role of Family Caregivers: More effective collaboration is needed between family caregivers and health care professionals in order to improve care coordination across settings. During care transitions, family caregivers make important contributions to ensuring quality, safety, and adherence to patient preferences and their roles need to be formally recognized. An important initial step in this regard is to develop a standardized approach to defining the type and intensity of the roles family caregivers contribute to facilitate planning to promote care planning and execution. One potential working definition is the “**DECAF**” classification developed by our Care Transitions Program®. Modeled after the TNM system used in cancer, each of the letters of DECATM refer to a different contribution made by a family caregiver: **D**= Direct Care Provision, **E**= Emotional Support, **C**= Care Coordination, **A**= Advocacy, and **F**= Financial. Each category is scored from 0 (no contribution) to 3 (significant contribution) for an overall aggregate score that ranges from 0-15