

Serious Illness Conversation Guide

Clinician Steps	Conversation Guide	
<input type="checkbox"/> Set up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking in advance • Is this OK? • Combined approach • Benefit for patient/family • No decisions today <input type="checkbox"/> Guide (right column) <input type="checkbox"/> Summarize and confirm <input type="checkbox"/> Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirm commitment • Make recommendations to patient • Document conversation • Provide patient with Family Communication Guide 	Understanding	What is your understanding now of where you are with your illness?
	Information preferences	How much information about what is likely to be ahead with your illness would you like from me? <i>For example: Some patients like to know about time, others like to know what to expect, others like to know both.</i>
	Prognosis	Share prognosis, tailored to information preferences
	Goals	If your health situation worsens, what are your most important goals?
	Fears/Worries	What are your biggest fears and worries about the future with your health?
	Function	What abilities are so critical to your life that you can't imagine living without them?
	Trade-offs	If you become sicker, how much are you willing to go through for the possibility of gaining more time?
	Family	How much does your family know about your priorities and wishes? <i>(Suggest bringing family and/or health care agent to next visit to discuss together)</i>

Communication About Serious Illness Care Goals A Review and Synthesis of Best Practices, Rachelle E. Bernacki, MD, MS; Susan D. Block, MD; for the American College of Physicians High Value Care Task Force

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BC Cancer Agency

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