

# Partners Serious Illness Conversation Guide

#### Pre-meeting assessment

- Information sharing
- Anticipatory guidance
- Responding to changes
- Decision making

#### Focus on what can be done

- Maintain quality of life
- Prioritize comfort
- Allow a natural death

#### **Assure agreement**

• Is that OK?

I'd like to talk about how \_\_\_\_\_ is doing. Would that be OK?

### **ASSESS PROGNOSTIC AWARENESS**

What is your **understanding** of \_\_\_\_\_\_'s illness?

What are your **hopes** right now?

What are your worries?

#### SHARE WORRY

Would it be OK if we talked more about what may lie ahead?

I hear you're hoping for \_\_\_\_\_ and I worry \_\_\_\_ may get sicker in the coming hours or days (and may not survive).

#### **ALIGN**

I wish we didn't have to worry about this.

#### **EXPLORE WHAT'S IMPORTANT**

If \_\_\_\_\_ could join this conversation, what would s/he say is **most** important now?

How aware are other family or friends of what is happening?

#### MAKE A RECOMMENDATION

It sounds like \_\_\_\_\_ is very important.

Given what's important, I recommend ...

## **DOCUMENT YOUR CONVERSATION**



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# **FAMILY MEETING WORKSHEET**

Patient: Family members present: Team members present:
MEDICAL OPTIONS FOR ESTIMATED WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOUR PROGNOSIS OF DAYS/WEEKS PATIENT
UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE BENEFIT:  RECOMMENDATION  FOCUS ON GOALS:
MEDICAL PLAN TO ACHIEVE GOALS: