

# SERIOUS ILLNESS CONVERSATION GUIDE

## CLINICIAN STEPS

### Set Up

- Thinking in advance
- Is this okay?
- Combined approach
- Benefit for patient/family
- No decisions today

### Guide (right column)

### Summarize and Confirm

### Act

- Confirm commitment
- Make recommendations to patient
- Document conversation
- Provide patient with Family Communication Guide

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## CONVERSATION 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?

#### FOR EXAMPLE

Some patients like to know about time, others like to know what to expect, others like to know both.

### 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 of 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?

(Suggest bringing family and/or health care agent to next visit to discuss together)