

MGB Serious Illness Conversation Guide Pediatrics

Set Up

- Think together about what's important to you and your child
- Provide the right care now and in the future
- No decisions necessary today

Respond to Emotion

- Name the emotion: This is frustrating.
- Explore hopes beyond cure: What else are you hoping for?

Focus on what can be done

- Maintain quality of life
- Prioritize comfort
- Allow a natural death
- Mitigate parent regret
- Identify hopes other than cure or extended life

OPEN THE CONVERSATION

I'd like to talk about how _____ is doing and where things might be going. Would that be OK?

ASSESS PROGNOSTIC AWARENESS

What is your **understanding** of ______'s illness/health? What are your **hopes** right now for their health? *And what else?* What are your **worries**? *And what else?*

SHARE WORRY

Would it be OK if we talked more about what may lie ahead?
TIME: I hear you're hoping for and I worry may
get sicker in the coming hours/days/weeks/months/years (and may
not survive).
FUNCTION: I hear you're hoping for and I worry the decline
we have seen is going to continue.
UNCERTAIN: It can be difficult to predict what will happen with
's health. I hope and I'm worried I think it
is important to prepare for that possibility.

(PAUSE FOR SILENCE)

ALIGN

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

EXPLORE WHAT'S IMPORTANT

What gives you **strength** as you navigate _____'s illness/health? If ______'s health worsens, what becomes most important? How aware are **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 USING ACP MODULE



This material has been modified by us. The original content can be found at https://portal.ariadnelabs.org and is licensed by Ariadne Labs under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Ariadne Labs licenses the original content as-is and as-available, and makes no representations or warranties of any kind concerning the original content or concerning this material, which Ariadne Labs has not reviewed or endorsed.