

Partners 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

Responding 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? What are your **hopes** right now for their health? 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/days/weeks/months/years (and may not survive). I hear you're hoping for _____ and I worry the decline we've seen is going to continue.

ALIGN

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

EXPLORE WHAT'S IMPORTANT

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

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