**Serious Illness Conversation Guide**

**CLINICIAN STEPS**

- **Set up**
  - Thinking in advance
  - Is this okay?
  - Hope for best, prepare for worst
  - Benefit for patient/family
  - No decisions necessary today

- **Guide (right column)**

- **Act**
  - Affirm commitment
  - Make recommendations about next steps
    - Acknowledge medical realities
    - Summarize key goals/priorities
    - Describe treatment options that reflect both
  - Document conversation in Epic
  - Provide patient with Family Communication Guide

**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 as a range, 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?

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