## 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
  - 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)*