

## END OF LIFE CARE - DISCUSSION ABOUT (PLACE OF CARE, AGGRESSIVE TREATMENT, DNR)

Language functions	Structure/ examples
Recognizing the stresses that illness imposes on a patient and family.	<b>I know this is</b> a very difficult time for you and your family. I realize that you have never been this sick before, and this must be frightening to you.
Initiating an end-of-life discussion with a terminally ill patient.	I want you to be able to speak openly with me, so I can best help you.
Encouraging a patient to speak openly	I would like to spend some time with you and begin discussing an important topic about your health condition.
Eliciting a patient's general thoughts about end-of-life care	How do you imagine spending your last months? You said that you don't want to be a burden to your family—what do you mean by that? There are some circumstances in which life-prolonging treatment would not be desirable.
Clarifying prognosis	I want to be certain that I have clearly explained your medical situation. What is your understanding of this? This disease is getting the better of you. I understand your desire to feel better and to be better—but it is not realistic.
Identifying end-of-life goals	As your doctor, I need to know what things are most important to you, given your illness. When people get to this stage, some people feel like they want to keep fighting, and other people just let things happen as they may. How are you feeling about this?
Developing the treatment plan	From what you have said, let me suggest the following plan to you. Please tell me if I am correctly representing your views Let's make sure that your medical care plan enables you to accomplish what you want with your remaining time. We have talked about your illness and you have told me about how you want to spend your final months. I also need to know your thoughts about using cardiopulmonary resuscitation. You look uncertain about this. We don't need to decide today, at this moment. Let's talk more about this at our next meeting
Developing a better understanding of the patient's values and preferences	Tell me about your fears or worries for the future? What are your goals and priorities?



for end-of-life care	What outcomes are unacceptable to you? What are you willing to sacrifice and not? And near the end of life, what would a good day look like for you?
Shared decision making	So what I propose to do is... How does that sound to you? I will respect your decision. Ultimately the decisions are yours.