



Talking About Dying

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Session Discussion Questions:

1. “We” don’t talk about dying. Why?
2. Do end-of-life discussions influence care decisions? How about advance directives?
3. How should we start “end-of-life” conversations? What words are helpful? Words to avoid?
4. What is palliative care? Is it different than hospice? How do we introduce palliative care?

Recommended Articles:

- Goldstein NE et al. Titrating Guidance: A Model to Guide Physicians in Assisting Patients and Family Members Who Are Facing Complex Decisions. *Arch Intern Med.* 2008;168(16):1733-1739.
- Malcomson H et al. Perspectives of Healthy Elders on Advance Care Planning. *J Am Acad Nurse Pract.* 2009; 21:18–23.
- Pantilat SZ. Communicating With Seriously Ill Patients: Better Words to Say. *JAMA.* 2009;301(12):1279-1281.
- Perkins HS. Controlling Death: The False Promise of Advance Directives. *Ann Intern Med.* 2007;147:51-57.
- Quill TE et al. Discussing Treatment Preferences With Patients Who Want “Everything”. *Annals Intern Med.* 2009;151:345-349.
- Ramsaroop SD et al. Completing an Advance Directive in the Primary Care Setting: What Do We Need for Success? *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2007;55:277–283.
- Silveira MJ et al. Advance Directives and Outcomes of Surrogate Decision Making before Death. *N Engl J Med* 2010;362:1211-8.
- Teno JM et al. Referring a Patient and Family to High-Quality Palliative Care at the Close of Life. *JAMA.* 2009;301(6):651-659.
- Torke AM et al. Substituted Judgment: The Limitations of Autonomy in Surrogate Decision Making. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2008;23(9):1514–7.
- Tulsky JA. Importance of Communication Skills at the End of Life: Beyond Advance Directives. *JAMA.* 2005;294:359-365.
- Volandes AE et al. Video Decision Support Tool for Advance Care Planning in Dementia: Randomized Controlled Trial. *BMJ.* 2009;338;b2159.
- Weiner JS et al. Avoiding Iatrogenic Harm to Patient and Family while Discussing Goals of Care Near the End of Life. *J Palliative Med.* 2006; 9(2):451-63.
- White DB et al. Are Physicians’ Recommendations to Limit Life Support Beneficial or Burdensome? Bringing Empirical Data to the Debate. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2009;180:320–325.
- Wittink MN et al. Stability of Preferences for End-of-Life Treatment After 3 Years of Follow-up. *Arch Intern Med.* 2008;168(19):2125-2130.