



HOT TIPS

Feb 2017

Northern Health Palliative Care

Ethical Decision-Making Algorithm

Consider the Patient's Illness Experience

- symptoms
- suffering

Consider the Illness

- nature and status
- likely course
- medical options
- nearness of death

Consider the Patient as a Person

- wishes and values
- plans and goals
- hopes and expectations

Perspectives & Inputs
patient, family, others

Perspectives & Inputs
health care team

Formulate Goals of Care
general
specific

Life Prolongation
NO Longer Goal

Life Prolongation
Still a Goal

- ▶ Clarify the patient's wishes
- ▶ Determine treatments not desired
- ▶ Establish option to reconsider if situation changes

- ▶ Full supportive care
- ▶ Stop life-prolonging therapy undesired

Consider Possible Treatments

- ▶ Burdens and benefits?
- ▶ Consistent with patient's wishes?
- ▶ Consistent with goals?

- ▶ Clarify the patient's wishes
- ▶ Determine treatments desired and by what means
- ▶ Establish need to reconsider if situation changes

- ▶ Full supportive care
- ▶ Continue life-prolonging therapy

Discuss Goals of Care
if condition changes