



Northern Health Palliative Care

Serious Illness Conversation Guide

- ❖ “More, Earlier, Better Conversations”
- ❖ Part of the overall process of Advance Care Planning
- ❖ Promotes conversations prior to the patient being in crisis
- ❖ A listening conversation with patient and clinician tested language
- ❖ Promotes care that is in line with the goals and wishes of the patient

Conversation Flow for Serious Illness Conversations

1. Set up the conversation

- Introduce purpose
- Prepare for future decisions
- Ask permission

2. Assess understanding and preferences

3. Share prognosis

- Share prognosis
- Frame as a “wish...worry”, “hope...worry” statement
- Allow silence, explore emotion

4. Explore key topics

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Goals | • Family |
| • Trade-offs | • Fears and worries |
| • Critical abilities | • Sources of strength |

5. Close the conversation

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Summarize | • Check in with patient |
| • Make a recommendation | • Affirm commitment |

6. Document your conversation

7. Communicate with key clinicians

In partnership with the BC Centre for Palliative Care, the NH Palliative Care Team has been providing ongoing virtual training for clinicians on the Serious Illness Conversation Guide.

If you are interested in completing the training please email Palliative.Care.Consult.Team@northernhealth.ca for more information about upcoming opportunities.

Ariadne Labs. (2017). Serious Illness Conversation Guide - Conversation Flow. In *BC Centre for Palliative Care Serious Illness Conversation Guide*. Retrieved from <https://bc-cpc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/SIC-Conversation-Guide-V3-April2017.pdf>

