

Medicines 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)

- • Affirm commitment
- Make recommendations about next steps
 - Acknowledge medical realities
 - Summarise key goals/priorities
 - Document conversation
- Provide patient with the Guide

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Understanding

What are your thoughts about where you are with your health?

Information preferences

How much information do you want about your medicines?

PROMPT:

From me or your doctor? What kinds of information? Some patients like to know about side effects, harms and benefits, others like to know as little or much as possible.

General health

Discussion about health issues in relation to medicines you are taking. Prevention vs treatment of conditions

Goals

What medicines are helping you feel better right now?

(Are medicines influencing day-to-day symptoms)

What is the most important thing for you now?

(Or in the near future)

Fears / Worries

What are your biggest fears and worries about your health?

Do you have any concerns about side-effects of your medicines?

Trade-offs

Would you be willing to accept a small increase in risk to your future health for less side effects now?

(Or reducing your number of medicines? Is this a priority for you?)

Function

What activities are important to your life?

(Does this relate to your medicines in any way?)

Your GP

How much does your GP know about your health priorities?

(Suggest asking if family knows about priorities and wishes)