

JUST ASK:

Talking to patients and families about Advance Care Planning

ASK YOUR PATIENT:

- What do you understand about your illness or what's happening to you?
 - Then offer to provide your view of prognosis, etc. Check who they may want present for this conversation.
- Do you have an Advance Care Plan? Do you know what I mean by this?
 - If yes, discuss details.
 - If no, then ask, "If we need to make decisions about your care and you were unable to speak for yourself, whom would you want me to speak to about your care?"
 - Leads to natural exploration of the role of an SDM and need for one to be identified.
 - Have you talked to your SDM (or anyone else) about your wishes or preferences for health care that may come up (e.g., resuscitation)? May I ask what you discussed?
 - Explore discussions with family, SDM, health care providers.
- What is important to you as you think about this topic?
 - Do you have the information you need to make decisions about the kinds of treatments you do or do not want if you become very sick with a life-threatening illness?

ASK YOURSELF:

- Did I ask my patient about preferences for medical treatment?
- Do I know who to contact if the patient cannot communicate their wishes?
- Did I include the family?
- Do I feel confident that I know my patient's wishes for care?
- Did I accurately document the nature of the conversation?

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