

Talking With Your Health Care Provider About Your Serious Illness and What's Important to You

Invitation to Schedule a Visit

Your health care provider may invite you to schedule a different kind of visit.

At this serious illness conversation visit, you both will focus on your goals, values and priorities. (For example, being able to attend a special family event.)

This is part of the care we provide to all of our patients.

You may be wondering “Why now?” The invitation to schedule this visit is often when you are doing OK. Now is a good time to talk about what is ahead and to do some planning for the future.

You may invite a member of your care circle (family member, friend or someone close to you) to the visit. It is valuable for the person who would make health care decisions for you to be included, if possible.

At the Visit

- You may not have your medicines reviewed or your blood pressure, pulse and temperature taken.
- Your health care provider will spend your visit talking about your goals, values and priorities. You may not have a physical exam at this visit.

After the Visit

A member of your health care team will call you in 3 to 5 business days to ask how you are and communicate any questions you have to your health care provider.

Why This is Important

Your health care provider and health care team want to support you best. People who think through what is important to them and what their wishes are often feel less anxious, more at peace and more in control of their situation.

Talking About the Future Won't Change Your Ongoing Care

Talking about the future won't change the plans we have made so far about your treatment, unless you want something to change. We will keep providing the best possible care moving forward.

Your Wishes May Change Over Time

This is the beginning of an ongoing conversation. You may have other questions or concerns in the future. We will keep being here to support you and answer your questions so that you can make informed decisions.

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