

FOUR QUESTIONS

TO START SERIOUS ILLNESS CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR PATIENTS

1. What is your understanding of your current illness?

Patients want clear information about their condition, illness, and prognosis. These discussions are linked to effective shared decision-making.

2. What are your goals and values?

Understanding and eliciting values from patients related to their illness or about the end of life can improve treatment plans and patient-centredness.

3. How much are you willing to go through for the sake of added time?

Conversations about prognosis, goals, and outcomes can inform decisions about life-prolonging or life-sustaining treatments at the end of life.

4. Have you documented your wishes and shared them with a health care decision-maker?

Having a trusted person who understands and is aware of the patients' goals are associated with better outcomes.