

*Other questions I want to ask:*

Tell your nurse or doctor if you would like to schedule a family conference.

**Family conference date/time:**

*Please bring this leaflet with you to refer to during the discussion and take notes as necessary.*

[osfsupportivecare.org](http://osfsupportivecare.org)

## Helping You Prepare for the Family Conference

Our Palliative Care team would like to meet with you to share and gain information that will help us meet the needs of your loved one. This leaflet was designed to help you prepare for this important meeting.



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## What is the purpose for having a family conference?

The purpose for having a family conference is to allow the family to discuss their needs and goals for the patient, and to allow the health care team to give the family “the big picture”.

## What does the family need to know to get the big picture?

The family should know how the patient is doing now, about treatment or care options, and the doctor’s expectations for the patient’s future condition with or without treatment.

## Who attends the family conference?

The patient (if they are able to participate), the patient’s Power of Attorney for Health Care agent or surrogate, and any family members that share in the care-decision making for the patient. The health care team members that attend the meeting may include the doctor, advance practice nurse, nurse, social worker, counselor, and/or chaplain.

## How do we prepare for the family conference?

You can prepare for it by:

- Thinking about the patient’s beliefs and values and what they would say today if they could make decisions on their own.
- Sharing your concerns, worries, or fears about your loved one’s condition and outlook.
- Listing the questions you want to ask the doctor (see examples on next page.)

*What are the patient’s main medical problems now?*

*What are the treatment options and treatment goals?*

*What is being done to keep the patient comfortable?*

*What is the outlook for the patient’s recovery?*

*Are there life-sustaining treatment decisions that we may have to make?*

*What are our care options after hospital discharge?*