



NURSE-FAMILY CONVERSATION

Conversation goals:

- Elicit family needs, understanding of prognosis
- Elicit patient values, goals, preferences
- Suggest plan to address family needs

Skills to Practice	Examples
Open-ended questions	<p>Determine family’s understanding and perspectives on prognosis: <i>“What do you understand about your mom’s medical situation?”</i> <i>“What have the doctors said about what to expect?”</i> <i>“What information about prognosis would be helpful to you?”</i> <i>“What is your sense of what the prognosis might be?”</i></p> <p>Understand patient and/or family’s definition of quality of life and thus values and goals of treatment: <i>“What are you hoping for?”</i> <i>“What worries you the most?”</i> <i>“Could you tell me a little about what Jane is like?”</i> <i>“What would be most important for her right now?”</i> <i>“What would Joe think about the treatments he’s getting now?”</i> <i>“What kind of things does Tony enjoy?”</i></p> <p>THEN LISTEN! (using skills below)</p>
Tell me more	<p>Family: <i>“I don’t understand why everyone keeps telling us she’s not responding - when I squeeze her hand she squeezes back.”</i> Nurse: <i>“Tell me more about that.”</i></p>
Reflection	<p><i>“So, if I understand correctly, it seems like you and the doctors aren’t on the same page, is that right?”</i> <i>“It sounds like you have a lot of questions for the doctors.”</i></p>
NURSE	<p>Family: <i>“I’m afraid to even think that Stan might not recover.”</i> Nurse: <u>N</u>ame: <i>“It’s a scary thing to think about.”</i> <u>U</u>nderstand: <i>“I can understand how that would be scary.”</i> <u>R</u>espect: <i>“You have been so strong.”</i> <u>S</u>upport: <i>“We’re here to support you.”</i> <u>E</u>xplore: <i>“What are you afraid will happen?”</i></p>