Palliative Care on the Front Lines of COVID-19

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Serious Illness Communication

Telephone or Virtual Visit Script

• This is not an emergency. I’m Dr. Meier, is this a good time to talk?
• How has corona virus impacted you or your family?
• What have the doctors told you so far?
• May I share an update with you now?
• Would you like to do a virtual visit and see your dad with me now?

Next Phase of Covid-19

• Post hospital discharge care needs
• Approach to the many non-weanable ventilated ICU patients
• Sequelae of prolonged intubation and ICU care
Telepalliative Covid Care
Emergency Department and ICUs

- Embedded PC teams in the ED
- Unique needs of Covid ICUs
- Utilization of iPads w/ families
- Goals of care conversations
  - We don’t offer treatments that won’t work, harm>benefit
  - Preferences
    - Intubation, ventilator
    - Artificial feeding/Trach/Nursing home
    - CPR?
Celebrate the Wins! – Our Extubation Dance
Symptom Distress

• No family or visitors
• Anxiety, depression
• Difficulty breathing
• Mechanical ventilation often requires sedation
Questions