

# Palliative Care on the Front Lines of COVID-19

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[www.capc.org](http://www.capc.org)

[www.getpalliativecare.org](http://www.getpalliativecare.org)

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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



Information

**[www.getpalliativecare.org](http://www.getpalliativecare.org)**

COVID-specific palliative care resources:  
**<https://www.capc.org/blog/capc-releases-covid-19-response-resources-toolkit/>**



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# Questions