

Patient Selection for Advance Care Planning Conversations

Advance care planning is appropriate for all adults in various life stages and should be revisited over time, especially when life circumstances change. An important part of the process is identifying which patients need a conversation and what type of conversation to have. This can be divided into three distinct areas: individuals who are at least 18 years old and healthy, those who have received a diagnosis of a serious illness, and those who face probable death within the next 1-2 years. Each group has a specific conversation to ascertain treatment goals in the context of the person’s current health status, and some overlap can be expected.



The following table outlines the three main patient populations and the suggested type of conversation for the goals to be attained. This is meant to be a guideline for ACP conversations, with each one being individualized to meet the patient’s needs.

	Healthy Adults	Adults with Serious Illness	Adults with Probable Death within 2 Years
Goals of Conversation	Identify goals of care in case sudden illness, injury leaves one unable to speak for self	Identify gaps in knowledge regarding diagnosis; acknowledge fears, worries; deliver prognosis	Identify how the patient wants to live the end of their life; what matters most; how much information do they want; what type of treatments do they wish to have.
Type of Conversation	Advance Directive; Health Care Power of Attorney	Serious Illness Conversation	Serious Illness Conversation Respecting Choices® Advanced Steps®
Who Initiates Conversation	Facilitator; Clinician	Clinician	Clinician or Clinician assisted by Facilitator
Recommended Training	Respecting Choices® First Steps®	Serious Illness Conversation Program	Serious Illness Conversation Program; Respecting Choices® Advanced Steps®

My Life My Choices offers courses throughout South Carolina for both the Serious Illness Conversation Program as well as Respecting Choices®. For more information regarding upcoming training opportunities, please contact us at info@mylifemychoices.org.