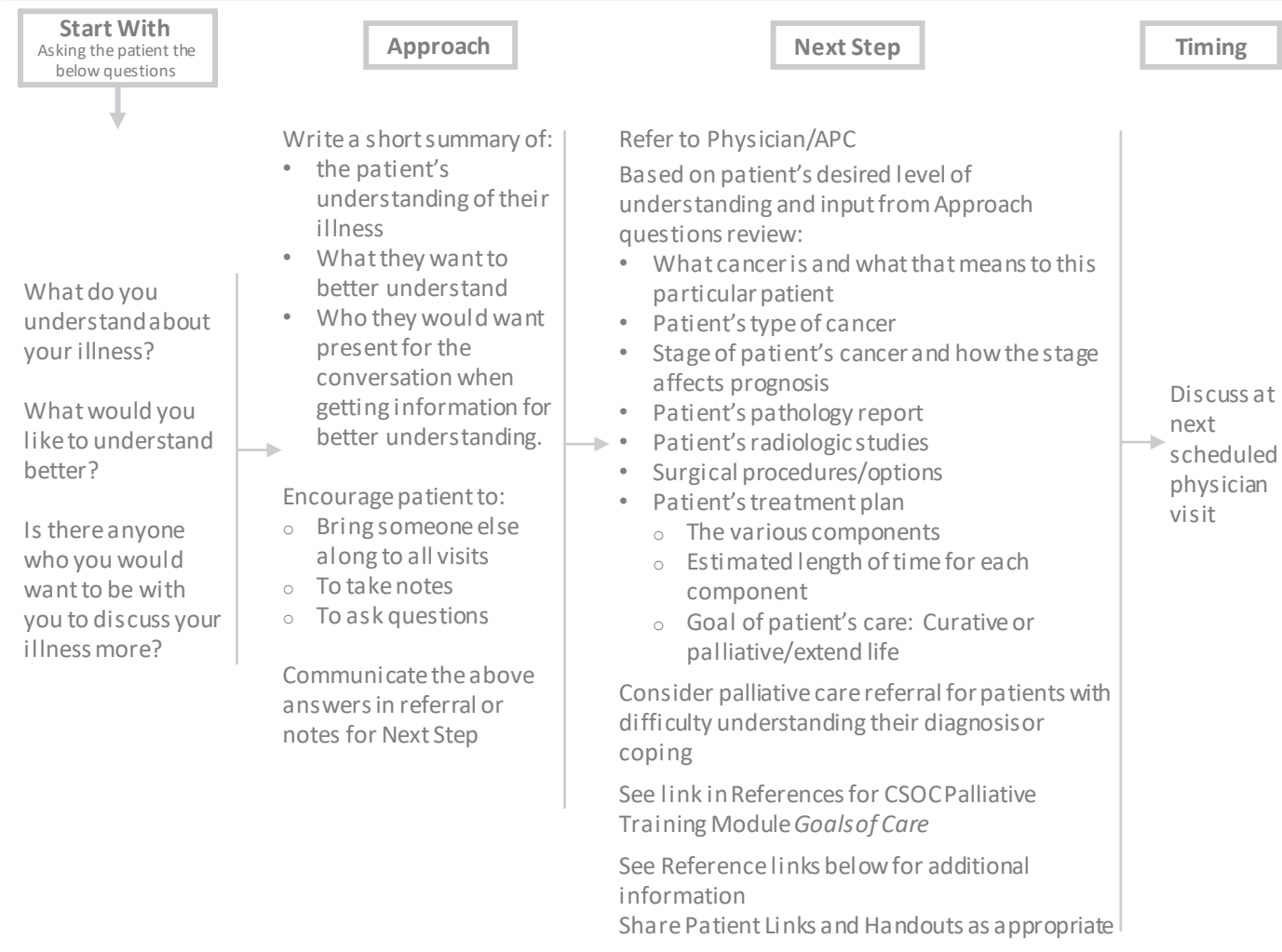


Clinician Follow Up Reference for Supportive Care

Treatment or Care Concerns –

“YES” to I want to better understand my cancer diagnosis or stage



Notes

Stages I-III: important to assess what patient understands about his or her illness and to address any misconceptions. Assess patient’s fears and worries. Recommend that patient assign a health care Power of Attorney (POAHC).

Stage IV: important to assess what patient understands about his or her illness and to address any misconceptions. Patients may not realize that chemotherapy and/or radiation is palliative and not curative. Explain what palliative means. Assess patient’s fears and worries. If patient has a health care POA, ask if patient will allow that person to be present for these conversations and appointments.

Geriatric: Having health care proxy and a family member present at all appointments if possible, especially if there are any cognitive issues. Concerns or questions of the primary caregiver are just as important to be addressed if patient has a hard time understanding. Geriatric patients may be more comfortable asking questions of a social worker than an oncologist as compared to a patient of a younger generation. Address polypharmacy and assess reduction of medications for better quality of life.

Patient Links and Handouts:

- [American Cancer Society, Understanding Your Diagnosis](#)
- [American Cancer Society, Cancer Staging](#)
- [Cancer.Net, Diagnosing Cancer](#)
- [Cancer.Net, Stages of Cancer](#)
- [Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission](#)
- [NIH, Communication in Cancer Care \(PDO®\)](#)

References:

- [NIH, Communication in Cancer Care \(PDO®\)](#)

CSOC Patient Handout can be accessed at: <http://cancer-help.me/diagnosis>