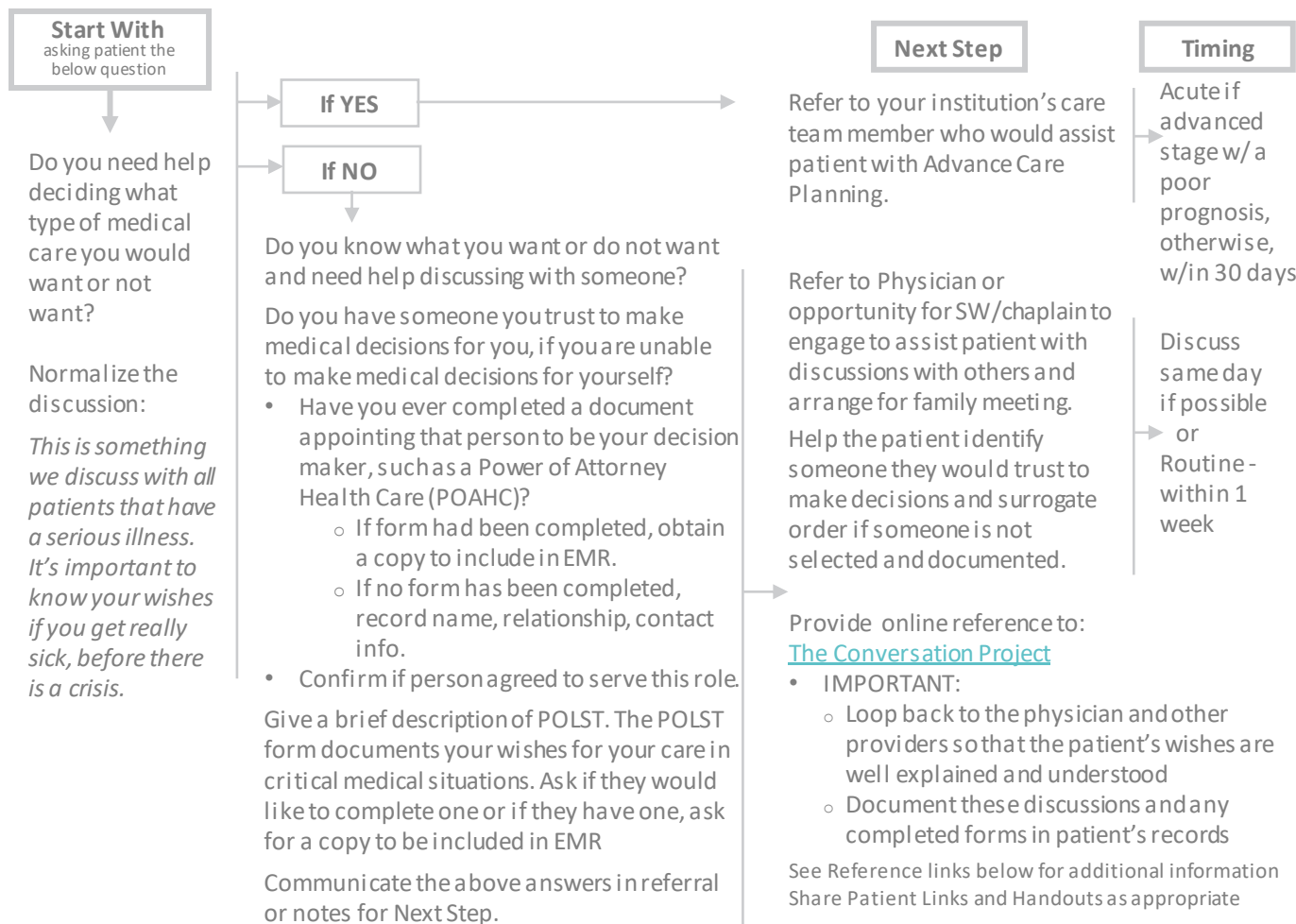


# Clinician Follow Up Reference for Supportive Care

## Treatment or Care Concerns –

“YES” to “I want help discussing and deciding on the kinds of medical care I want or don’t want with my family, friends or doctor”



### Notes

**Stages I-III:** All adults, including early-stage cancer patients benefit from advance care planning discussions and designation of healthcare power of attorney. However, these discussions tend not to occur with curative-intent patients because physicians fear it will cause patients to worry. National guidelines tend to focus on disease understanding and advance care planning for incurable patients.

**Stage IV:** Consider Palliative Care Referral if the primary team is not able to carry out these discussions. It is essential that a patient’s disease understanding, values, and needs are assessed.

**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 (multiple medication use) and possible reduction of medications for better quality of life.

### Patient Links and Handouts:

- [NCI Support for People with Cancer, Taking Time](#)
- [NIH, Advance Directives](#)
- [Cancer.Net, Advanced Cancer](#)
- [POLST Illinois](#)
- [American Cancer Society, Advance Directives](#)
- [Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission](#)
- [The Conversation Project](#)

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

### References:

- [POLST & Advance Directives](#)
- [Goals of Care Discussion: How Hard It Can Be](#)  
JAMA Intern Med. Kirkpatrick, J.N., 2015;175(4):557-558. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.7740
- [Online Clinical Training Courses For All Clinicians](#) – clinician communication training.
- [CPAC, Center to Advance Palliative Care™](#) – clinician tools, training, tech assist. For those caring for people with a serious illness