FOUR QUESTIONS
TO START SERIOUS ILLNESS CONVERSATIONS
WITH YOUR PATIENTS

1. **What is your understanding of your current illness?**
   Patients want clear information about their condition, illness, and prognosis. These discussions are linked to effective shared decision-making.

2. **What are your goals and values?**
   Understanding and eliciting values from patients related to their illness or about the end of life can improve treatment plans and patient-centredness.

3. **How much are you willing to go through for the sake of added time?**
   Conversations about prognosis, goals, and outcomes can inform decisions about life-prolonging or life-sustaining treatments at the end of life.

4. **Have you documented your wishes and shared them with a health care decision-maker?**
   Having a trusted person who understands and is aware of the patients’ goals are associated with better outcomes.

Learn more about having serious illness conversations at [www.ChoosingWiselyCanada.org/Serious-Illness-Conversations](http://www.ChoosingWiselyCanada.org/Serious-Illness-Conversations).