

## Week Four Activity – Case Studies

### **Case 1 SETTING: Clinic, one month after hospitalization for COPD exacerbation.**

- Mr. Smith is a 68-year-old retired salesperson
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), on steroids and home oxygen; diabetes; chronic kidney disease; chronic hip pain
- Three hospitalizations this year (COPD exacerbations)
- Two ED visits (fall, med refill)
- Worsening shortness of breath, muscle weakness, fatigue
- Declining functional status at home, despite short stays in rehab after each hospitalization
- Spouse very involved, 28-year-old daughter lives

**The *goal* of the discussion today is to use the Structured Communication Guide to explore Mr. Smith's values, goals and priorities for care in the setting of illness progression.**

**As you prepare to speak with Mr. Smith, you consider the following:**

Mr. Smith has COPD and multiple co-morbidities (diabetes, kidney disease, chronic hip pain)

Given the hospitalizations and declining functional status, you are worried that he will have a harder time managing at home and that something serious could happen quickly, so you want to begin a conversation.

### **Case 2- Clinic visit**

Mr. P. is a 63-year-old retired teacher whose prostate cancer has metastasized to his bones. Two years ago, doctors told him, he had between 18 months and two years to live. He lives with his wife of 27 years, and is concerned about what will happen to her when he dies.

He has no advanced directives on his chart.

He is unsure about what he wants for his ongoing treatment plan.

- **The *goal* of the discussion today is to use the Structured Communication Guide to explore Mr. P's values, goals and priorities for care in the setting of illness progression.**
- **As you prepare to speak with Mr. P., you consider the following:**

He has terminal cancer

He is ambivalent about whether to continue palliative chemotherapy

He does not have a POA for health care or documented goals of care

You want to begin the conversation to elicit his values, goals and priorities