Serious Illness Conversations

More, Earlier, Better Conversations

Who we are
The BC Centre for Palliative Care was established in 2013 to support The Provincial End of Life Action Plan for British Columbia.

What we do
The Centre provides leadership to support innovative solutions to improve the way we live and die in British Columbia.

Serious Illness Conversation initiative
Our Serious Illness Conversation initiative supports health-care providers to conduct clinician workshops on the use of the Serious Illness Conversation Guide through mentorship and the provision of CME accredited workshop materials.

Let’s work together!
Call or email for more information about upcoming train-the-trainer events and ideas on the Serious Illness Conversation initiative.

Be a champion!
Help patients, clients, residents and families affected by serious illness get the care that aligns with their goals, values and beliefs.

Promote the Serious Illness Conversation initiative within your program or site.

Advocate for the Serious Illness Conversation program with your administrators and promote the development of a process to:

- identify high-risk patients who would benefit from a Serious Illness Conversation;
- prepare the patient for the conversation;
- allocate clinician time for the conversation;
- provide the patient with a Family Guide for Communication and follow up support;
- document in a medical record that is easily accessible across settings.

Enlist others by facilitating a Serious Illness Conversation clinician workshop in your setting.

Learn more about the Train the Trainer Sessions that focus on skills development in conducting clinician workshops on the use of the Serious Illness Conversation Guide at www.bc-cpc.ca
Serious Illness Conversation initiative

As part of the provincial initiatives for advance care planning and a palliative approach to care, BCCPC has adopted the Serious Illness Conversation Guide, developed and tested by Ariadne Labs (Harvard Medical School). The guide assists clinicians in providing more, earlier, better conversations to individuals diagnosed with a serious illness.

Where does the Serious Illness Conversation fit in the continuum of advance care planning?

The Serious Illness Conversation is part of the overall process of advance care planning. The clinician revisits or starts the conversation about goals and preferences when a person has an illness that is serious with an expected prognosis of less than one year. The conversations may contribute to medical orders that reflect goal-concordant care.

Educational materials

The 3.0 hour CME-accredited clinician workshop is designed to support the interdisciplinary use of the Serious Illness Conversation Guide in practice. The tools are designed to help individuals prepare for the conversation; help clinicians guide the conversation; and then help the individuals talk to their families about their goals and values regarding their future care.