

Did this meeting help you?

Did the health care team members:

- Answer your questions?
- Listen to you when you expressed your thoughts, feelings or concerns?
- Explain the situation?
- Explain the next steps?

Do you have more questions or concerns?

Please write your questions down, so you can ask the doctor or nurse.



Notes

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing notes, contained within a green double-line border.



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in collaboration with
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Meeting with the ICU Team: A Guide for Families



Helping Families Prepare for the Family Meeting



In our intensive care unit (ICU), we meet with you, our patient's family, to talk about your loved one's condition and care.

To make the most of our time together at the meeting, you may find it helpful to think about your questions and what you may wish to discuss before we meet. This guide may help you to prepare some questions to ask the ICU team.

You may wish to write notes and bring them with you to the meeting. (There is more space to write your questions and notes on the back of this brochure).

Some questions to think about:

1. What do you know about your loved one's illness and treatments? (You can check if this information is correct, complete and current when we meet).
2. Do you have any questions and concerns about the treatments or illness?

We will try to answer all your questions and address your concerns.

Other questions some other families have asked us at ICU family meetings:

Check the questions that you want to discuss:

- Why was your loved one brought to the ICU?
- What has happened since then?
- What are his or her main medical problems now?
- What treatments are being given or planned?
- What do the doctors expect to happen?
- What are the other treatment choices?
- What medical decisions does the family need to make?

Share your concerns

If you have concerns, worries, fears, or other feelings about your loved one's condition or anything else related to the ICU care, write them down so you can share them with us at the meeting.

Documents to bring to the meeting (if you haven't done so already):

Bring any documents or papers like a health care proxy or living will that relate to medical decisions for your loved one to the ICU.

Who will come to your family meeting?

Please give the ICU a list of health care team members and family members that you would like to attend the meeting.

Health care team members include:

- ICU doctor in charge
- Any other doctors who are important in your loved one's care
- Nurse
- Social worker
- Chaplain

When you need to decide on care that is "right" for your loved one

If your loved one can't talk to you or the ICU team now, please think about:

- What things he or she may have said in the past about ICU treatments.
- What has he or she said to you in the past, when someone else was seriously ill.
- What your loved one would say today, if he or she could talk and make decisions.

When you share this with us, it can help you and the ICU team decide together about care that is "right" for your loved one.

What are your goals for this meeting?