**Goal:** Identify patients who **PREFER** symptom/comfort-oriented treatments **AND** consider the best possible outcome of mechanical ventilation/CPR “worse than death.”

<table>
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<th>STEPS</th>
<th>WHAT TO ASK</th>
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| **Ask what they know** | Hello. I am Dr. ______. I am sorry to meet you this way. What have you heard about what has happened today to your [loved one]?
| **Break bad news** | Warning shot: I am afraid I have serious news. Would it be OK if I share? Headline: Your [mother] is not breathing well from [pneumonia/COVID]. With her other health issues, I am worried she could become/is very sick and may even die.
| **Establish urgency. Align** | We need to **work together quickly** to make the best decisions for her care.
| **Baseline function** | To decide which treatments might help your (mother) the most, I need to know more about her. What **type of activities** was she doing day-to-day before this illness?
| **Patient’s Values** *(Select appropriate questions)* | Has she **previously expressed wishes** about the kinds of medical care she would or would not want? If time is short, what is **most important to her**? **How much** would she be willing to go through for possibility of more time? What **abilities are so crucial** to her that she would consider life not worth living if she lost them? Are there states she would consider **worse than dying**?
| **Summarize** | What I heard is ___. Did I get that right?
| **Make recommendations** | We will use all available medical treatments that we think will help your loved one recover from this illness. For her, this means care focused on ___. We will do ____ and not do ____.
| **Forecast** *(If the they elect ICU care)* | I hope these treatments will help your [mother]. We are still worried about how sick she is – ICU team will discuss with you how (your mother) is responding to treatment in the next 24 to 48 hours.

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### Is this patient at high risk for poor outcome?
- Serious illness (ESRD, Home O₂, etc.) **OR**
- Frail elder **OR**
- Patient resides in a nursing home or LTAC
- Suspected COVID in age > 70

Does the patient have a DNR/DNI?
- **YES** → Confirm these choices
- **NO** → Proceed to ED Code Status Conversation