Clarify summarize and document

*You are not “killing <the patient>” you are helping us understand what their wishes would have been.*

*If <the patient> were here with us now, what do you think he would want?”*

*If <the patient> could have this conversation with us, what would <the patient> say about this situation?*

*I can’t imagine how difficult it must be to try to speak for <the patient> Thank you for being here for <the patient>*

Outline the clinical scenario, the possible treatments and their likely outcomes. Do the patient and/or their family define

No

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Ask if you can make a suggestion. Reassure the SDM (if applicable)

No

Have patient and/or their family decided on a treatment goal?

Review what treatments would or would not match the patient’s goals

*If you were near the end of your life, what would be important you?*

*What health states would you find unacceptable. For example would you not want to be “kept alive with machines”*

Does the patient have goals in treatment?

*“While no one can tell you for certain how long you have left to live, I am concerned...”*

*I am really worried about <the patient>, he/she is really sick*

Outline the clinical scenario and likely prognosis. Normalize the uncertainty.

Do the patient and/or their family understand the acute problem that has arisen?