



What do you consider important for your child?

A conversation about your child's care and treatment



Your child has a serious illness or condition.

This is why we've invited you for a conversation; we would like to know what you consider to be the best care and treatment options for your child. You can read more about the conversation in this folder as well as how you can prepare for the conversation.

Why is this conversation necessary?

Your child is currently receiving care or treatment for a serious illness or condition. It is important that your child can continue to develop as well as possible. This is why we'd like to hear what you think is important for your child. Not just in the present, but also in the future in case your child's condition deteriorates or improves. This way we can work together to provide the best care for your child.

Are there things that worry you? Is there a chance your child may die from his/her illness? Are there things you absolutely do or do not want for your child? You can talk about these topics during the conversation.

It can be difficult to look ahead, especially if it means considering situations where your child's health may deteriorate. But it is important to do this in time. If you have a clear idea about your wishes and preferences, we can take them into account in your child's care and treatment plan. This way, you won't have to think about these preferences and wishes for the first time during moments of acute care. We hope this will put you and your child at ease and give you more control.

What happens during the conversation?

During this conversation you can talk with your child's attending doctor or nurse about how you look at your child's future. You can also talk about what you consider important for your child's care and treatment. In this folder you'll find a series of questions to help you prepare for the conversation.

Who will be present during the conversation?

Your child's treating doctor or nurse will be present for the conversation. As parents, you may invite someone to join you if you want. Is your child younger than 12? Then you can legally make decisions for your child. Your child is welcome to participate in the conversation if he/she wishes and if you think this is alright. Is your child older than 12 but younger than 16? According to the law, your child has a right to participate in the conversation and to make decisions about his/her care and treatment together with you.

Is your child 16 or older? Then your child can legally make his/her own decisions and can therefore have the conversation with the attending doctor or nurse either with or without you present.



What happens after the conversation?

The attending doctor or nurse will make a summary of the conversation. This summary will be kept in your child's medical file. You will also receive a form to take home; here you can record any agreements you reached during the conversation. Did you write down something that is not in the medical file summary? Then you should make another appointment with the doctor or nurse to ensure that the agreements are clear to you both.

What if your child's situation changes?

What if your child's situation changes? Or what if you change your mind about what you think is good for your child? You can always ask for another conversation with your child's attending doctor or nurse.

How can you prepare for the conversation?

You'll be talking to your child's attending doctor or nurse about what you consider important for your child's care and treatment. The following series of questions can help you prepare for this conversation.

“What is your child like?”

What does your child like?

What does your child strongly dislike?

What makes your child happy?

What is important to your child?

Is your child afraid of anything? If so, what?

What does your child's illness mean to your child, yourself and your family?”



“What do I want to know about my child’s illness?”

Do I want to know more about the future?

Do I want to know about what may happen?

Do I want to know what my child can do?

Do I want to know what my child can't do?

What do I want to be prepared for?

What do I want others to know about my child's illness?



“What do I wish for my child?”

What do I think is a good life for my child?

What do I want to achieve for my child?



“What would I absolutely not want for my child?”

What do I not want for my child?

What am I afraid of?



“What sort of parent do I want to be for my child?”

What do I give my child in life?

What do I want to do for my child?



“What do I consider important in the care and treatment of my child?”

What would I like to achieve with the care and treatment of my child?

What do doctors and nurses need to know about the care and treatment of my child?

Colofon

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