A QUICK GUIDE TO DETERMINE  
Patient Goals of Care Designation

? ASK  
Today, given your current health, please tell me what is most important to you when considering the medical treatment options for serious illness.

Values Questions:

On a scale of 1-7 circle the number to best describe how important you think the following is to you:

Q1  
I want medical treatments that focus on prolonging my life  
Equally important  
I want medical treatments that focus on maintaining the quality of my remaining life

Q2  
I want doctors to do everything possible, including the use of machines, to keep me alive for as long as possible  
Equally important  
I want a natural death without being attached to machines

? ASK  
What was your reasoning for choosing your answers?

? ASK  
As you think ahead to the future, it is helpful for doctors (me) to know if there are conditions or health states that are ‘worse than death’, such as being in a long term coma or not being able to recognize family members. Please describe conditions or health states that you consider unacceptable.
Which treatment options are right for you?

Take the responses from the questions just answered on the previous page and put them on the grid below. Draw a line to the right from the answer to question 1 and another up from the answer to question 2 until they meet as shown in figure one*. The square where your 2 answers meet will help you see what medical treatments are right for the patient.

There is a relationship between the answers to the values questions and the medical treatments in each of the squares. If you land on the grid in a square that suggests a medical treatment that does not match what you think is right for you, you will need to go back to the values questions and review with the patient and possibly change their answers. If you find the answers to the values questions don’t make sense and lead to one of the 2 black boxes, you will need to go back and change the answers. If you land on the grid between two treatments, you need to help the patient decide what is right for them.

Note: You will need to translate the wording in the squares into the official order for the use or non-use of life sustaining treatments using the forms you use in your given institution.