

QUESTIONS FOR THE DOCTOR DURING **SERIOUS ILLNESS**

PLAN
WELL

We are preparing you today for future decisions should you become seriously ill. We do not know when serious illness might strike, it could be tomorrow or it could be 30 years from now.

At that point, a doctor will try to speak to you and explain what is going on and how they might treat you. It may be your family doctor or more likely it will be an Emergency Room (ER) or Intensive Care Unit (ICU) doctor that you've

never met before. They will want to know your values and preferences to help them make the decision that's right for you.

You should be prepared to ask lots of questions at that moment, to be sure you understand the final medical decision made, because the consequences will have life and death implications. The questions below will help to ensure you're receiving the right care.



Examples of questions that you may want to ask the doctor:

- Help me understand the big picture of my illness, what can I expect with my illness journey?
- How does this condition usually progress?
- Are you offering because you are supposed to or are you actually recommending?
- Are there any other options?
- If we move forward with this course of action, will there be an opportunity to change or reverse direction?
- On average, how long do people with my condition live for?
- With the treatments you are proposing, what are my chances of survival? If I survive, what will I be like, what kind of shape will I be in?