

Ten Top Tips for Sharing Cancer Prognosis

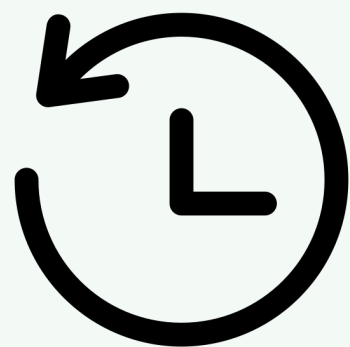
A guide for health care professionals

Communicating prognosis requires skill and sensitivity and when done well offers hope as well as realistic expectations.

GPs, nurses and researchers in the Macmillan Primary Care Cancer Framework have worked with patients and clinicians across Wales to produce this good practice guide to sharing a cancer prognosis with patients.

1. Be Prepared

- Update patient if you are running late
- Move patient to consultation room only when ready to begin consultation



Created by Adrian Adam from Noun Project

2. Prechecks

- Encourage patient to invite a friend or relative
- Consider communication needs
- Ensure correct patient and correct notes



Created by Joe Pictos from Noun Project

3. Environment

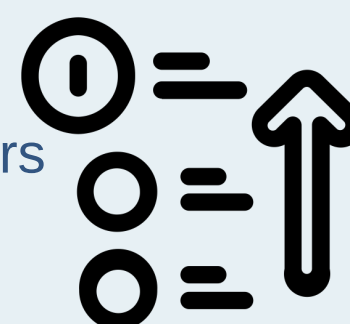
- Quiet private space
- Introduce everyone present to the patient and seek permission if additional health professional are attending



Created by Doub.co from Noun Project

4. Establish Patient priorities and understanding

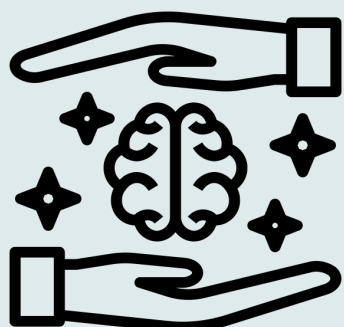
- Patient priorities may be different to yours
- Note language used



Created by Lima Studio from Noun Project

5. Bite Size Information

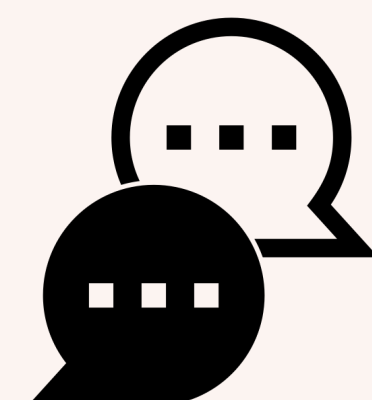
- Check understanding repeatedly
- Take note of non-verbal communication



Created by Sumit Saengthong from Noun Project

6. Language

- Use the word 'cancer'
- Check patient's understanding of language used



Created by Angelina from Noun Project

7. Hope

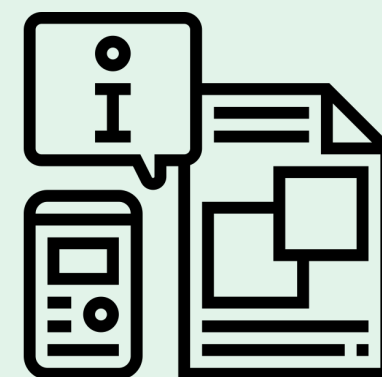
- Be realistic but emphasise positive information and choices where possible
- Share plan and be honest about uncertainty
- Consider quality and quantity of life



Created by Eucalypt from Noun Project

8. Information

- Acknowledge research already done
- Offer accessible sources of information



Created by Eucalypt from Noun Project

9. Give time for Questions

- Consider asking 'Have we covered everything that matters to you?' and address concerns
- Advise of follow up and communication plans



Created by Thuy Nguyen from Noun Project

10. Documentation

- Document future plans
- Establish patient preference for communication preference
- Timely information to other healthcare teams including primary care



Created by Arthur Shlain from Noun Project

If you would like to give feedback on this document to help us improve this guide we would like to hear from you. Please email wcn.cancersitegroups@wales.nhs.uk