HEALTH CARE CONCERNS: POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ADD TO A CLINICAL INTERVIEW

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Current Health Care Status

What is your understanding of your problem/diagnosis?

What is your understanding of the prognosis, or what will happen if the problem is not treated?

What are the treatment options? What do they involve? How will they affect your daily life?

How will each help? What do you want to do? Why?

Involvement of Others in Medical Decisions

Who has been involved in making this medical decision? (family, friends, doctors, nurses)

What does your family want you to do?

Who do you want to be involved in making medical decisions for you?

Who would you trust to make decisions for you if you could not speak for yourself? Why?

Who would you not trust? Why?

What thoughts do you have about how your illness or care might affect others in your life?

Have other people’s emotional or financial interests influenced your wishes about medical care? How?

Perceptions on Quality of Life

What do you think it is that makes your life worth living?

What would make you want to continue to live even if you were very ill or disabled?

Can you imagine any circumstances in which you would prefer to be dead than remain alive?

How important are: thinking clearly, taking care of your own personal needs, being able to move around by yourself, enjoying hobbies, being able to communicate, being able to chew or swallow food?

Experiences with Pain

Have you had experience with severe pain?

How have thoughts about pain and suffering influenced your medical decisions?

Religious and Cultural Preferences

Do you have particular religious, spiritual or moral beliefs that influence your treatment decision? What are they? How do these guide what you want?

Do you have any cultural beliefs that influence your treatment decision? What are they? How do these guide what you want?