I'd like to talk together about what’s happening with _____’s [eg. your wife’s, husband’s, other relationship description or name] health and what matters to them. Would this be okay?

To make sure I share information that’s helpful to you, can you tell me your understanding of what’s going on with _____’s health now?

How much information about what might be ahead with _____’s health would be helpful?

I want to share my understanding of where things are with _____’s health: [Choose one]

**Uncertain:** It can be difficult to predict what will happen. I hope they will feel as well as they can for a long time, and we will work toward that goal. It’s also possible that they could get sick quickly, and I think it’s important that we prepare for that.

**Time:** I wish this was not the case. I am worried that time may be as short as _____ [express as a range: days to weeks, weeks to months, months to a year].

**Function:** It can be difficult to predict what will happen. I hope they will feel as well as they can for a long time, and we will work toward that goal. It’s also possible that it may get harder to do things because of their illness, and I think it’s important that we prepare for that.

**Pause: Allow silence. Validate and explore emotions.**

If their health gets worse, what do you think are _____’s most important goals?

What do you think are _____’s biggest worries?

What gives _____ strength as they think about the future?

What activities bring joy and meaning to their life that you can’t imagine them living without?

If _____’s health gets worse, how much would they be willing to go through for the possibility of more time?

How much do the people closest to _____ know about _____’s priorities and wishes for their care?

Having talked about all of this, what are _____’s hopes for their health?

I’ve heard you say ______. Keeping that in mind, and what we know about _____’s health, I recommend that we ______. This will help us make sure that _____’s care plan reflects what’s important to them.

**How does this plan seem to you?**

**We will do everything we can** to help you and _____ through this.

**Handoff to Key Clinicians**

I talked with the patient’s surrogate about ______. I learned ______.

I think they would benefit from talking with you about ______.