

A few tips and examples of the 3 core communication skills relevant to each of the 3 steps of MVP

Medical Situation

Agenda: "I'd like to discuss your medical situation, OK?"

Ask: "What do you understand?"

Ask: "May I share my understanding?"

Tell (warning shot): "I'm afraid I have some bad news...."

Tell (headline): "The treatment isn't working."

- "Your father is dying."

Empathize: "I can see this is hard to hear."

- "Can you tell me more about what you're thinking/feeling?"

- "This isn't fair."

Values

Agenda: "Now that you understand, let's explore your Values, OK?"

Ask: "Given this situation, what matters most to you?"

- "What are you hoping for? What else are you hoping for? Etc..."

- "Are there things you want to avoid?"

- "Can we explore your wishes if things don't go as you want?"

- "If he could be here, what would he say?"

Tell: "Let me see if I get it right: what matters most to you is..."

Empathize: "I wish we had the cure you so want and deserve."

- "Your commitment to his dignity is clear and moving."

Plan

Agenda: "Let's talk about how best to honor your Values, OK?"

Ask: "May I make a recommendation?"

Tell: "Given what you've told me, I recommend..."

- "... that we focus all treatments on your comfort."

- "...that you remain Full Code."

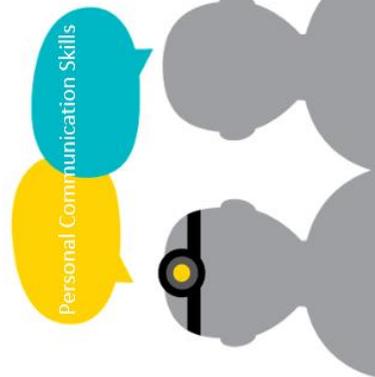
- "...that we take a break and pick up this tough conversation later."

Empathize: "It is an honor to know and work with you."

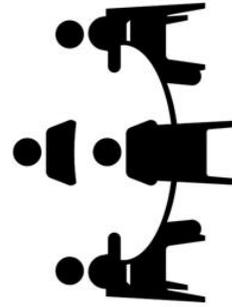
- "I am with you."

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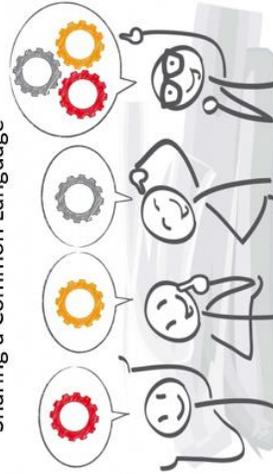
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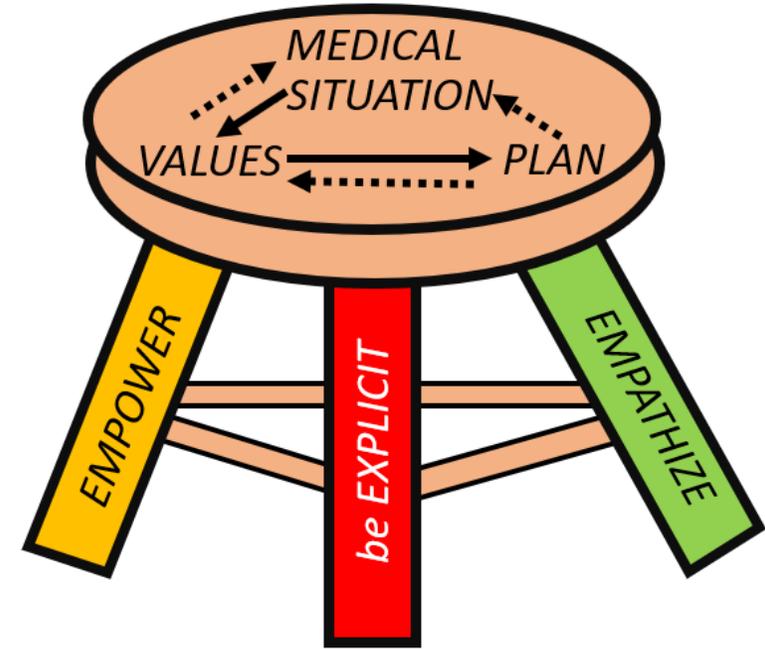


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MVP is a 3-step sequential, fluid process, supported by 3 core communication skills, to guide serious illness conversations

MORE TIPS & EXAMPLES*

1. Medical Situation

Empower

- I'd like to discuss your Medical Situation with you, OK?
- Is there anyone else you'd like to join this conversation?
- What do you understand about your medical situation?
- May I share my understanding?
- Do you like the basics or the details?
- I've just shared a lot of information with you; what do you understand now?

be Explicit

(Ask) Agenda:

- I'd like to discuss what's going on with your disease, OK?

(Tell) Warning shot:

- I'm afraid I have some bad news.

(Tell) Headlines:

- You have widespread and aggressive cancer.
- Your heart is extremely weak, and it will not heal.
- She has suffered severe and irreversible brain damage.
- Your father is dying.
- The treatment is not working; the cancer is spreading.

Empathize

- I can see this is hard to hear.
- I can only imagine how upsetting this is.
- Can you tell me how you're feeling about this tough news?
- You're right, this sucks.
- I wish I had a treatment that worked.
- I hear that you want me to focus on the facts, not your emotions. I can do that.

***These tips and examples are not intended to be used in any particular order. Rather, they are potential expressions of the 3 core communication skills relevant to each of the 3 MVP steps, and deployed when appropriate throughout the**

MORE TIPS & EXAMPLES*

2. Values

Empower

- Now that you understand the Medical Situation, let's explore your Values, OK?
- Given what's going on medically...
- What is most important to you now?
- Which is more important to you, length or quality of life?
- What are you hoping for? What else are you hoping for? Etc.
- What worries you most?
- Who are your supports?
- When you think about dying, what concerns you?
- Does faith, religion, or spirituality play a role in your life?
- What questions do you have?
- Are there things you want to avoid?

be Explicit

- Let me see if I get you right, okay?
- You want us to do everything possible to live longer, even if it is uncomfortable and keeps you in the ICU. Right?
- She would never have allowed this machine to keep her alive, and would tell us to stop it, and let her die. Correct?
- You want to be out of the hospital from here forward, and focus all efforts on your well-being at home, until you die. Accurate?

Empathize

- I wish we had the cure you so want and deserve.
- Your values clearly reflect your love for your kids; they are lucky to have you in their lives.
- Can you say more about what you're thinking? Feeling?
- Yes, you are between a rock and a hard place.
- You are managing this unbearable situation with such grace!
- Your commitment to your father's dignity and comfort is so clear, and so moving.
- I hope the treatment will help, but I'm concerned things may

MORE TIPS & EXAMPLES*

3. Plan

Empower

- Now let's talk about how best to honor your Values, by defining a Plan, OK?
- May I make a recommendation?
- Does this make sense?
- It seems like my recommendation was not what you were expecting, can you tell me more?

be Explicit

- Given what you've told me, I recommend...
 - ...that we take a break now, and pick up this tough conversation later.
 - ...that we focus all treatments on your comfort, at home.
 - ...that she remain Full Code for now.
- Would you like to revisit the Medical situation to clarify your question about CPR?
- It sounds like you've heard enough for today. How about if we resume this conversation tomorrow?
- I'm concerned that your wish for X will compromise your preference for Y. So I would like to revisit your Values in this tough medical situation, okay?

Empathize

- I am pleased we have defined the care plan that makes the most sense for you.
- It is such an honor to know and work with you.
- I am moved by your commitment to your mother's dignity.
- You are handling this impossible situation with impressive clarity, kindness, and wisdom.
- I am with you.