

Best Interest Questions to use from The Caregiver's Path to Compassionate Decision Making – Making Choices for Those Who Can't

- How many other things are going wrong with the patient's body?
- Are those other things fixable?
- What is the patient's life expectancy with or without the proposed treatment?
- How much is the patient suffering now?
- What are the available options?
- What are the chances of the proposed treatment working or not working?
- What are the possible risks, side effects or potential for suffering, if the patient chooses to have this treatment?
- Do the benefits of the treatment outweigh the risks and burdens?
- What steps will be taken to minimize the risks and suffering?
- How much will the patient suffer, if the patient doesn't have this treatment?
- Can this suffering be controlled with good pain management?
- What alternatives are available?
- What will happen if nothing is done?
- What will happen if we wait until later?
- Why now and not later?
- Are there any laws that obligate you to provide certain treatments for the patient?
- Based on the patient's quality of life before this hospitalization or treatment, how has the patient's quality of life changed?
- Will the patient be able to return to the same caregivers, friends and family?
- Will the patient be able to return to the same environment?
- If not, how can we help the patient adjust to a new environment?
- Will the patient be able to enjoy his or her meals as before?
- Will the patient be able to enjoy the same activities as before?

Questions to ask when using the Best Interest Standard

- Severity of the patient's medical condition
- Availability of curative or corrective treatment
- Achievability of important medical goals
- Presence of serious neurological impairments
- Extent of the patient's suffering
- Multiplicity of other serious medical problems
- Life expectancy of the child
- Proportionality of treatment-related benefits and burdens to the child

○ Weir and Bale, 1989

CHA Unrepresented Patient Policy

In order to determine the appropriate medical treatment for the patient, the multi-disciplinary team should:

a) Review the diagnosis and prognosis of the patient and assure itself of the accuracy thereof.

b) Determine appropriate goals of care by weighing the following considerations:

- Patient's previously-expressed wishes, if any and to the extent known
- Relief of suffering and pain
- Preservation or improvement of function
- Recovery of cognitive functions
- Quality and extent of life sustained
- Degree of intrusiveness, risk or discomfort of treatment
- Cultural or religious beliefs, to the extent known

c) Establish a care plan based upon the patient's diagnosis and prognosis and the determination of appropriate goals of care. The care plan should determine the appropriate level of care, including categories or types of procedures and treatments.