

“GETTING READY FOR THE END” SCRIPT DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1. Seniors – does everyone here have an Advance Directive for healthcare? DPOA? POLST? A living will?**
- 2. Seniors – did you discuss your Advance Directive with family members?; did you discuss your end of life wishes with your primary care physician? Why or why not?**
- 3. Seniors – can you share some of your decisions about end of life care? What did you want? What didn't you want?**
- 4. Students – does anyone here have an Advance Directive or living will? Why not?**
- 5. Students – What did you like about the doctor's approach to this discussion? What were some of the problems?**
- 6. Who here has discussed end of life wishes with family members? What was that like?**
- 7. What kinds of things should you take into consideration in making an Advance Directive; giving someone your durable power of attorney?**
- 8. What do you make of Abigail's reactions as the discussion goes on? Can DPOA be a burden to somebody?**
- 9. Does anyone have members in your family that resemble Abigail (too busy)? Or Joan (avoidant of the issue?)**
- 10. Dr. Gibbs – where do patients have the most trouble in completing Advance Directives? Family members?**
- 11. Dr. Gibbs – do patients/family members sometimes struggle with withdrawal of artificial hydration/alimentation? How do you address these concerns?**
- 12. Dr. Gibbs – do family members sometimes demand “everything” be done for their loved one? How do you work with this request?**

RESULTS: Older age, more years in practice, and more personal and professional experience with ACP were correlated with an increase in the percentage of patients with progressive, chronic life-limiting diseases with whom primary care physicians discussed advance directives. Overall, 97.5% of physician's expressed comfort in discussing ACP yet reported discussing advance directives with only 43% of appropriate patients. Discussion: Often, discussions about ACP or referrals to palliative care or hospice do not occur until the patient is near the end of life.