# Making the Difficult Conversation Simpler

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#### Mr. Stevenson



# Advanceding Serious Illness

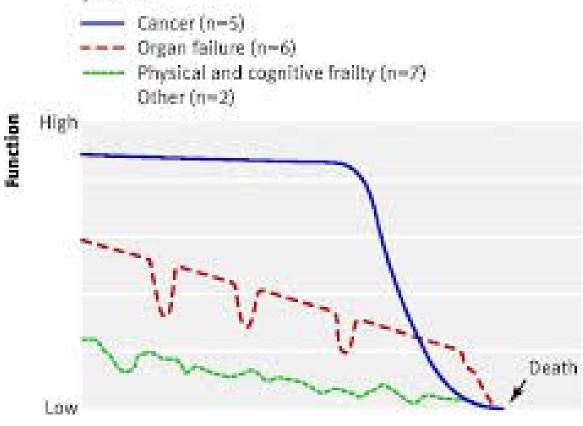






#### **ASI Trajectories**

Number of deaths in each trajectory, out of the average 20 deaths each year per UK general practice list of 2000 patients



Murray et al, BMJ 2008;336: 958-959

Phase of Illness	Cancer	Organ Failure	Dementia/Fra ilty
Becoming ill	Sudden memory	No clear event	Functional decline
Death	Real threat		
Living with ASI	Cancer Rx experience		
Death	Backstage, occasional appearances	Brushes with during exacerbation	Fates worse than
Dying	Focus on good death, HPM	Keeping going, late HPM	Slow, final decline; increased, often lengthy HPM
Death	Center stage		

#### Cancer



"I have fought the good fight"

Phase of Illness	Cancer	Organ Failure	Dementia/Fra ilty
Becoming ill	Sudden memory	No clear event	Functional decline
Death		Rarely considered	
Living with ASI		Uncertainty, episodes, frustrating limitations	
Death		Brushes with during exacerbation	
Dying	Focus on good death, HPIM	Keeping going, late HPM	Slow, final decline; increased, often lengthy HPM
Death		Why discuss it?	Will happen in due course

#### Organ Failure



"Why can't I get another 50,000 miles?"

Phase of Illness	Cancer	Organ Failure	Dementia/Fra ilty
Becoming ill	Sudden memory	No clear event	Functional decline
Death			Not a concern
Living with ASI		Uncertainty, episodes, frustrating limitations	Normalizing, adapting, fear of NH and dementia
Death			Fates worse than
Dying	Focus on good death, HPM	Keeping going, late HPM	Slow, final decline; increased, often lengthy HPM
Death		Why discuss it?	Will happen in due course

# Dementia/Frailty



"Not with a bang, but a whimper..."

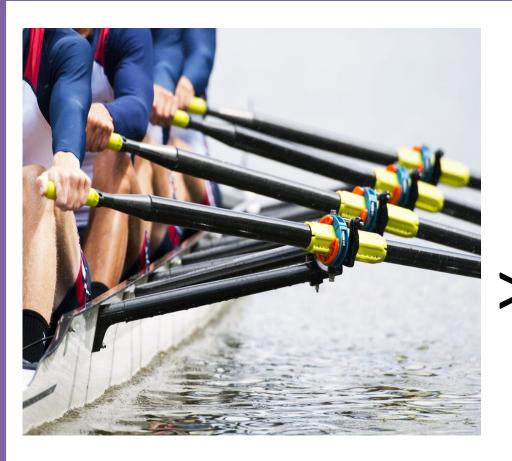
# **Psychological Safety**



#### IT'S WHAT YOU DON'T SAY THAT COUNTS!



NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION.

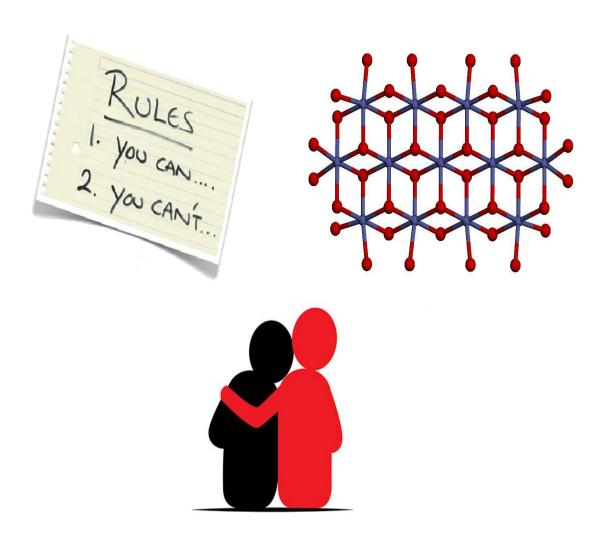


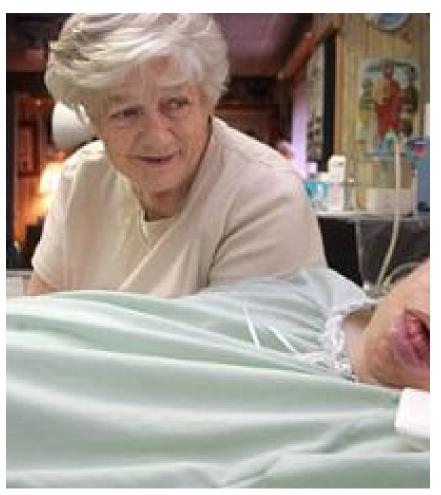






# Why Use a Game?



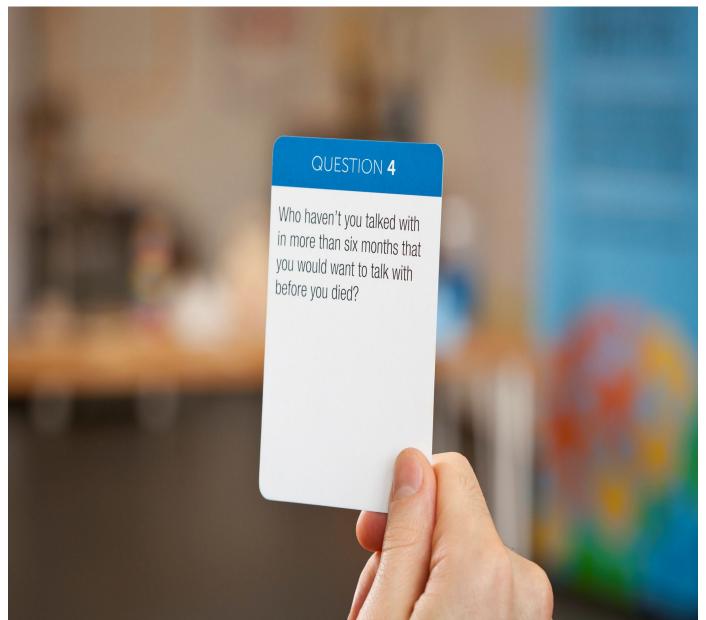








# Let's try one question



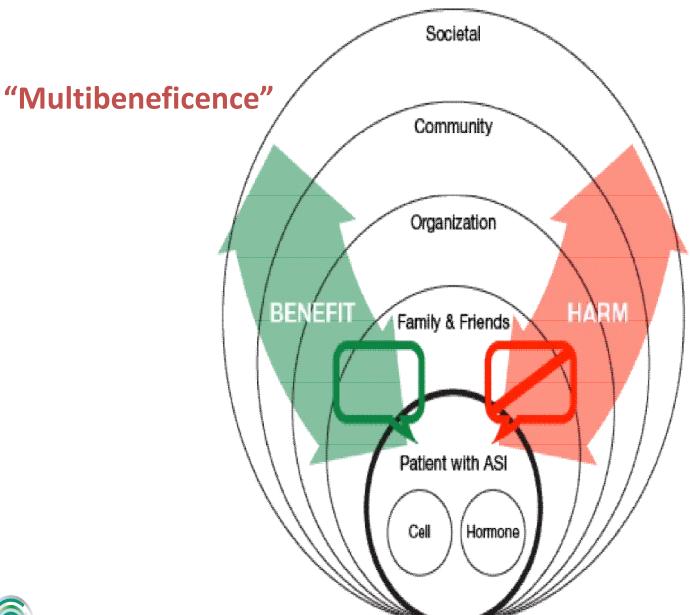


#### 78% within 3 months











#### Wrapping Up

- Psychological Safety
- Game
- "Multibeneficence"
- Patient/family-centered



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