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Vital Talk: The Essential Training for Mastering and Teaching Medical Conversation

By:

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Ninety-nine percent of physicians report understanding the importance of advance care planning, yet more than 60% of physicians say they never received formal training, and only 14% actually had these conversations with their patients.¹⁻³ Forty-six percent of physicians report being uncertain of what to say in these situations.⁴⁻⁵

Inadequate physician communication skills impact not only patients from intake to discharge but the entire health ecosystem; it is the most expensive line-item hospitals do not see.⁴ However, there is training that can have a positive impact. Vital Talk, an evidence-based training that empowers physicians and institutions, can be utilized to make communication skills for serious illness learnable.

We know, and believe, that effective, empathic, and honest conversations between a physician, patient and family are the cornerstones of patient-centered care. But, despite best efforts, too few physicians receive training on, or opportunities to practice, critical patient conversations.

Vital Talk is the premier training program for physicians seeking to advance their communication and teaching skills. Just as no one is born knowing how to handle a scalpel, the same is true for how to communicate effectively with seriously ill patients and their families or how to teach others this important skill.

Vital Talk equips physicians with expert strategies on how to best communicate effectively and compassionately with patients living with serious illness.¹ The training explores best-practice communication methodologies and tools to help clinicians communicate effectively about values and goals and then translate those into clinical care plans to better serve the needs of patients and their families.³ It also develops clinicians into advanced educators, who can share these critical communication skills with their students, residents, and fellows which builds capacity to provide patient-centered care.⁵

Vital Talk is being offered to physicians and advanced practice providers on the following dates and time:

- **October 25, 2024 9-1 pm**
- **January 29, 2025 1-5 pm**
- **April 30, 2025 8-12 pm**
- **August 6, 2025 8-12 pm**

If you are interested in participating in this training opportunity, please [register here](#).

References

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2. Khandelwal N, Curtis JR, Freedman VA, et al. How Often Is End-of-Life Care in the United States Inconsistent with Patients' Goals of Care? *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2017;20(12):1400-1404.
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