



Module 10

End of Life Care in a Patient with HIV



Breaking Bad News

1. Get started
2. Find out how much the patient knows
3. Find out how much the patient wants to know
4. Share the information
5. Respond to the patient's and family's feelings
6. Plan and follow-through

Instructions: Divide into Learner #1 and Learner #2. Learner #1 will first play the Spouse in Scenario A, and then after switching, play the Provider role in Scenario B. Learner #2 will first play the Provider role in Scenario A, and then after switching, play the Patient role in Scenario B.

Learner #1

Scenario A: Provider breaking bad news to Wole's spouse

Role: Spouse

You are quite worried about Wole's deteriorating condition. You are still hopeful that there are treatments available to help him recover and are looking forward to finding out what else can be done to prolong Wole's life. You don't feel like you could handle any bad news right now.

Scenario B: Provider breaking bad news to the patient

Role: Provider

This patient's HIV is well controlled. Based on your discussions with other providers, including a phone call with the cancer specialist at the tertiary referral center, you think that his worsening clinical status is because of advancing KS. Unfortunately, there are no other medications or interventions that can reverse his course. You will need to communicate to that there are no other medications that can stop the KS from advancing. You remind yourself to start the conversation by asking the patient who he would like to be present for the conversation.

Learner #2

Scenario A: Provider breaking bad news to Wole's spouse

Role: Provider

After Wole's wife has inquired about different medications, you look into his chart. His HIV is well controlled. Furthermore, based on your discussions with other providers, including a phone call with the cancer specialist at the tertiary referral center, you think that his worsening clinical status is because of advancing Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS). Unfortunately, there are no other medications or interventions that can reverse his course. You will need to tell the spouse that there are no other medications that can stop the KS from advancing and that he is unlikely to survive this hospitalization.

Scenario B: Provider breaking bad news to a patient

Role: Patient

You have been feeling worse even though you've been doing everything exactly as your doctor has been telling you, including taking all of your HIV medications. You are hopeful that there is something the doctor can provide you to help you feel better. You don't want to hear any bad news, but if there is any, you would rather not have your partner hear it at this time.