

# High Stakes Communication Around Complex Surgical Decision-Making

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Gynecologic oncology providers who care for patients with gynecologic cancer must routinely counsel patients and their families about complex treatment decisions. Eliciting patient values and preferences in the face of serious illness increases the likelihood of receiving care that is consistent with her goals and values.

While many physicians agree that goals of care discussions are important, few are explicitly trained to apply goal and value-oriented communication techniques to surgical decision making. This session will outline an efficient, evidence-based framework for conducting high stakes conversations around surgical decision making with patients and their families.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Articulate the benefits of using scenario planning (rather than risk percentages) for discussing complex surgical decisions.
2. Describe how to create a graphic aid for scenario planning using Best Case/Worst Case decision tool.
3. Name three skills for responding to patient emotional reactions to serious news.