

Questions Regarding the Course of Illness and Healing

Questions for family and support people:

1. What do you think caused the problem? Is there anyone or anything to blame?
2. Why do you think it started when it did?
3. What do you think the sickness does to your loved one?
4. How severe is the sickness? Do you think the condition can be cured, or improved? Do you think it will last a long time, or will it be better soon in your opinion?
5. What are the chief problems the sickness has caused your loved one?
6. What do you fear most about the sickness?
7. What kind of treatment would you like your loved one to have?
8. What are the most important results you hope to get from treatment?
9. Should we expect complications?
10. What has been the extended family's experience with illness?
11. Has anyone in the family faced an illness similar to this one? If so, what was its course and what helped most?
12. What is the person and the family's past history of recuperation?
13. What might make healing a struggle for your loved one now?
14. What is your goal for healing?
15. Do your love one have a clear purpose in life?
16. What do you think the sickness does for your loved one? (How might it help? What has your loved one, and what have you learned from it?)

Please list all healthcare providers you have consulted and their diagnoses and treatments. Why do you think these approaches have failed with this case? What did they miss?

If support is needed:

1. What changes in family responsibilities do you think will be needed because of your loved one's sickness?
2. If he or she needs care or special help, what family/community members are going to be responsible for providing it?
3. If the illness is now or appears likely to become chronically debilitating, what are your plans for taking care of the problem over the long term?