



## Making Care Decisions at the End of Life: Three CD-ROM Series and Facilitator's Guide

Physicians and other health care professionals are often inadequately trained and uncomfortable about dealing with dying patients and their families. Patients and families need sensitive communication as well as information when facing end-of-life issues.

This three-part series of trigger scenarios and roundtable discussions is designed for facilitated discussions in small groups or in Grand Rounds settings. It is intended to develop clinicians' knowledge, comfort, and interactive skills so that they may better assist patients and families faced with Making Care Decisions at the End of Life.

### CD-ROM Titles

- Talking about Death and Dying
- Withdrawing or Withholding Care
- Dealing with Medical Futility

### Goals

- To raise awareness of gaps in delivery of end-of-life care;
- To highlight the ethical and clinical responsibilities of those who provide care to patients with life-threatening conditions.

### Learning Objectives

- To highlight communication skills likely to improve relationships with dying patients and their families;
- To recognize the complexity of end-of-life decision-making and encourage a team approach among caregivers;
- To provide a supportive environment in which participants can discuss challenges and identify best practices in caring for patients near the end of life;
- To facilitate discussions that will enhance participants' familiarity and comfort with difficult end-of-life issues; and
- To challenge participants to develop their own action plans to improve end-of-life care in their practice settings.

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#### THCI's *Making Care Decisions at the End of Life Series*

A limited number of these CD-ROMs are available free through an educational grant from Pfizer.

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