

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

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HEALTH OUTCOME PRIORITIZATION TOOL SCRIPT

There are times when we can't get everything we want. A trade-off is when you have to give up one thing to get another. When a doctor is trying to treat you they have four goals:

- 1) **Keeping you alive**
- 2) **Maintaining independence (i.e., able to do your daily activities without help)**
- 3) **Reducing or getting rid of pain**
- 4) **Reducing or getting rid of symptoms (can fill in our symptoms)**

I'd like you to think about the importance of each of these goals. Think of a situation when your doctor can't give you all of those goals at the same time. You will have to choose the most important.

I'd like you to tell me where you would put each box on the scale of 0 to 100. The higher you put the box, the more important that goal is to you. The only rule is that you can't put two boxes on the same number (i.e., on top of each other). For the goals of reducing or getting rid of pain and other symptoms, I want you to think about what would be most important to you **if you were having pain or feeling symptoms** now.

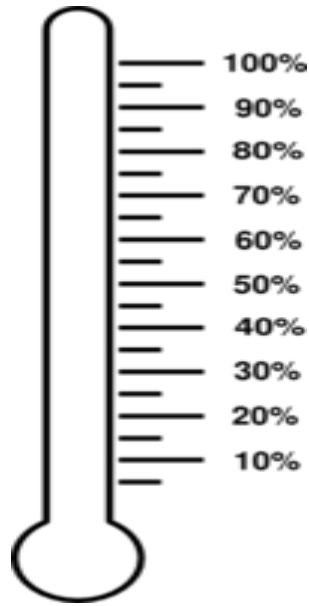
By picking one of the goals as most important, it means you would be ok giving up some of the others. For example, if you choose, **"Keeping you alive" as most important, it means you can accept not being able to do some of your everyday activities by yourself and having more symptoms and pain in order to live longer.**

If you choose **"Maintaining independence," it means you can accept a shorter life and more symptoms in order to keep your ability to do your everyday activities by yourself.**

If you choose **"Reducing / getting rid of symptoms" or "pain" as most important, it means you can accept not being able to do some of your everyday activities by yourself and a shorter life to be free of symptoms or pain.**

How far up or down you put the box shows how much you would give up (i.e., trade-off) one thing to have more of another. Take your time with this. You can move the boxes after you have placed them. Do you have any questions? Let's begin.

Health Outcome Prioritization VAS (minature sample)



Laminated boxes with each health priority were placed onto an enlarged VAS thermometer by the patient.

Supplemental Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients by 1st-choice health outcome priority

	Maintaining independence (n=133)	Staying alive (n=96)	Reducing pain (n=25)	Reducing other symptoms (n=17)	P*
Age, years	73 (67, 78)	70 (66, 76)	69 (65, 77)	67 (65, 75)	0.19
Women	58 (43.6)	45 (46.9)	13 (52.0)	7 (41.2)	0.85
Race					0.98
Black	23 (17.3)	19 (19.8)	5 (20.0)	3 (17.6)	
Non-black**	110 (82.7)	77 (80.2)	20 (80.0)	14 (82.4)	
Marital status					0.87
Married	82 (61.7)	66 (68.8)	16 (64.0)	11 (64.7)	
Divorced	17 (12.8)	9 (9.4)	3 (12.0)	2 (11.8)	
Widowed	28 (21.1)	12 (12.5)	5 (20.0)	3 (17.6)	
Single / other	6 (4.5)	9 (9.4)	1 (4.0)	1 (5.9)	
Highest education level					0.52
Less than high school diploma	12 (9.0)	14 (14.6)	1 (4.0)	2 (11.8)	
High school diploma or equivalent	33 (24.8)	23 (24.0)	7 (28.0)	5 (29.4)	
Some college	25 (18.8)	22 (22.9)	8 (32.0)	4 (23.5)	
College degree or higher	63 (47.4)	37 (38.5)	9 (36.0)	6 (35.3)	
Yearly household income***					0.17
Less than \$20,000	17 (13.0)	18 (18.8)	3 (12.0)	4 (23.5)	
\$20,000-39,999	37 (27.8)	20 (20.8)	3 (12.0)	7 (41.2)	
\$40,000-59,999	25 (18.8)	21 (21.9)	8 (32.0)	0 (0.0)	
\$60,000-79,999	19 (14.3)	12 (12.5)	9 (36.0)	3 (17.6)	
\$80,000-99,999	8 (6.0)	8 (8.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	
\$100,000 and above	25 (18.8)	16 (16.7)	2 (8.0)	3 (17.6)	
Insurance type					0.12
Private	35 (26.3)	28 (29.2)	9 (36.0)	3 (17.6)	
Medicaid / medical assistance	2 (1.5)	8 (8.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.9)	
Medicare	96 (72.2)	60 (62.5)	16 (64.0)	13 (76.5)	
ADL score	5 (5, 5)	5 (5, 5)	5 (5, 5)	5 (5, 5)	0.08
iADL score	8 (8, 8)	8 (7, 8)	8 (5, 8)	8 (7, 8)	0.05
POS-S Renal score	9.5 (5, 15)	8 (4, 14)	8 (4, 17)	9 (6, 21)	0.52
eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m ² ****	22.3 (16.9, 27.9)	23.5 (17.7, 28.2)	24.1 (17.3, 29.0)	19.7 (12.6, 25.0)	0.33
BMI, kg/m ²	29.4 (25.4, 35.2)	30.2 (26.9, 34.9)	31.0 (26.6, 36.1)	29.1 (27.8, 34.5)	0.69
Charlson Comorbidity Index	4 (3, 6)	5 (3, 6)	5 (4, 6)	5 (4, 6)	0.58
Specific comorbidities					
Hypertension	131 (98.5)	95 (99.0)	23 (92.0)	16 (94.1)	0.12
Diabetes mellitus	65 (48.9)	47 (49.0)	12 (48.0)	10 (58.8)	0.89
Coronary artery disease	44 (33.1)	28 (29.2)	7 (28.0)	7 (41.2)	0.74
Cerebrovascular disease	29 (21.8)	13 (13.5)	5 (20.0)	3 (17.6)	0.46
Peripheral vascular disease	19 (14.3)	8 (8.3)	2 (8.0)	2 (11.8)	0.52
All cardiovascular disease	64 (48.1)	35 (36.5)	8 (32.0)	10 (58.8)	0.11
Heart failure	33 (24.8)	22 (22.9)	7 (28.0)	4 (23.5)	0.96
Cancer	34 (25.6)	22 (22.9)	9 (36.0)	2 (11.8)	0.33
Chronic lung disease	14 (10.5)	18 (18.8)	3 (12.0)	3 (17.6)	0.33

Continuous variables expressed as median (interquartile range); categorical variables expressed as n (%). ADL, activities of daily living. iADL, instrumental activities of daily living. POS-S Renal, Palliative Care Outcome Scale-Symptoms Renal. eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate. BMI, body mass index.

Total percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding.

**P*-value calculated using ANOVA for continuous variables and chi-square test for categorical variables.

**218 white, 3 other.

***268 responses, as 2 patients who ranked maintaining independence first and 1 patient who ranked staying alive first declined to answer.

****As calculated using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease Study equation.²⁹

Supplemental Table 2. All choices for health outcome priorities

1 st choice	2 nd choice	3 rd choice	4 th choice	n (%)
Maintaining independence (n=133)	Reducing pain	Reducing other symptoms	Staying alive	30 (11.1)
		Staying alive	Reducing other symptoms	23 (8.5)
	Reducing other symptoms	Reducing pain	Staying alive	33 (12.2)
		Staying alive	Reducing pain	13 (4.8)
	Staying alive	Reducing other symptoms	Reducing pain	19 (7.0)
		Reducing pain	Reducing other symptoms	15 (5.5)
Staying alive (n=96)	Maintaining independence	Reducing other symptoms	Reducing pain	27 (10.0)
		Reducing pain	Reducing other symptoms	26 (9.6)
	Reducing pain	Reducing other symptoms	Maintaining independence	17 (6.3)
		Maintaining independence	Reducing other symptoms	11 (4.1)
	Reducing other symptoms	Maintaining independence	Reducing pain	8 (3.0)
		Reducing pain	Maintaining independence	7 (2.6)
Reducing pain (n=25)	Maintaining independence	Reducing other symptoms	Staying alive	9 (3.3)
		Staying alive	Reducing other symptoms	1 (0.4)
	Reducing other symptoms	Maintaining independence	Staying alive	6 (2.2)
		Staying alive	Maintaining independence	4 (1.5)
	Staying alive	Reducing other symptoms	Maintaining independence	3 (1.1)
		Maintaining independence	Reducing other symptoms	2 (0.7)
Reducing other symptoms (n=17)	Maintaining independence	Reducing pain	Staying alive	6 (2.2)
		Staying alive	Reducing pain	0 (0.0)
	Reducing pain	Maintaining independence	Staying alive	6 (2.2)
		Staying alive	Maintaining independence	1 (0.4)
	Staying alive	Maintaining independence	Reducing pain	4 (1.5)
		Reducing pain	Maintaining independence	0 (0.0)

All percentages are of sample total, n=271. Total percentage does not add up to 100 because of rounding.