### 3. Post Hospitalization/ Dialysis Complications

"You have just been in the hospital. I've noticed that things have been getting more difficult for you. In light of that, this may be a good time to discuss what is most important to you if you are getting sicker. Is that OK?"

"How did this hospitalization change your understanding of the future of your health? How have things changed for you recently? What is your understanding of what lies ahead?"

#### 4. Dialysis Access Issues

"You just had some setbacks with your dialysis access/had your dialysis access fixed, so if its OK with you I would like to discuss your goals and preferences."

"What is your understanding of what lies ahead with your dialysis and overall health?"

#### 5. Dialysis Withdrawal Consideration

"I understand you have been thinking about whether you want to continue dialysis. Is it OK for us to discuss your goals and preferences so we can think about this together?"

"What is your understanding of what it means to stop dialysis?"

#### 2. Dialysis Initiation

"As you begin dialysis and settle in to the routine, it's a good time to discuss/review your goals and preferences. It's been  $\underline{x}$  months since you started dialysis, which is a good time to discuss how things are going and review your goals and preferences. Is that OK?"

"How has starting dialysis or being on dialysis affected your life? What is your understanding of what lies ahead with your dialysis and overall health?"

## 1. Chronic Kidney Disease/ Pre-Dialysis

"As we start to think about options and preparations, it's a good time to discuss your goals and preferences. Is that OK?"

"How much do you know about your kidney disease and what it means for your health and Quality of Life?"









# Starting the Conversation: Exploring Key Concepts Throughout the Renal Journey

#### Serious Illness Conversation Patient Tested Language

Specific conversations starter quotes and dialogue cues are provided to assist such a conversation. This journey may not occur in a linear manner as suggested, and key topics may need to be revisited throughout the patient's journey.

\*\*Ernest et al.,(2016) Serious Illness Conversations in ESRD. CJASN. 10.2215