



# Shared Decision Making Top Tips

**1**

Regularly check the patient's current knowledge and thinking.

**2**

Consider when to be in 'explore with' mode as opposed to 'telling' mode throughout the conversation.

**3**

Create dialogue by using open ended questions to gather what's important to the patient.

**4**

Choose a method of communication which best suits the patient's level of understanding.

**5**

Use real statistics and consistent denominator to demonstrate absolute risks for patients.

**6**

Give both positive and negative outcomes to enable informed decision making.

**7**

Do remember to explore patient preferences.

**8**

Make it clear you are happy to share the difficult decisions.

**9**

Use visual aids, that can be easily shared (pictograms and bar charts work best), where possible.

**10**

Frequently summarise, signpost, chunk information and check understanding.

**11**

Remember to emphasise 'Choice' and include that maintaining current management is an option.

**12**

Share your own advice as long as this is informed by what matters to the patient.

**13**

Remember to check that the patient's and/or carer's questions have been answered.

**14**

Notice non-verbal cues when checking patient reaction.