**VENT WITHDRAWAL CONVERSATION**

**NOTE: This script pertains to crisis care situations with triage standards of care.**

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| **Clinician** | **Family** |
| 1. Get ready |  |
| I’ve heard from the triage people. This will be a hard conversation to have. “Hello, is Ms. Brown?” | Yes, that’s me |
| 2. Understand what they know |  |
| You talked to my colleague yesterday about your father, do I have that right? | Yes |
| What did you take away? | He’s sort of stable on the ventilator. |
| 3. Inform with a headline |  |
| I have some serious news. He is getting worse. His condition has worsened to the point where we need to change his care. I’m afraid he’s dying. | Oh gosh what do you mean? |
| His COVID has gotten so bad that he will not make it. We will have to take him off the ventilator | You’re just going to take him off!?! He’ll die! Isn’t taking him off the ventilator my decision? |
| Normally yes it would be your decision. Because of this horrible epidemic, now we are following special guidelines. | Are you kidding me? |
| 4. Deepen |  |
| I wish things were different. | This is a nightmare. |
| I can’t imagine what this is like. I can see how much you care about him. | Oh my gosh… |
| I suspect that you never expected the end of his life to come like this | Of course not. |
| This pandemic is changing everything, I’m sorry. | Now what? |
| 5. Equip |  |
| I want you to know that we can make sure he is comfortable. We can give him a peaceful death. We will pay close attention to shortness of breath, or any other signs of discomfort, and give medications and other treatments that enable him to die peacefully. | Wow. What do I do? Can I come to the hospital? |
| We will find a way for you to be with him, even if it is by tablet or phone, so that you can say anything you want to say. | I can’t believe this is happening. Is my father being singled out? |
| No. because of this horrible epidemic we are applying the same rules to everybody. | This is unfair. |
| This is unfair This is a horrible situation. | I need a couple of minutes to wrap my head around this. |
| I’ll stay right here. |  |