

# Preparation for the discussion

## Recommendation

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- Ensure facts about the patient's clinical circumstances are correct.
- Before seeing the patient, read the clinical records and/or speak with relevant health care professionals to determine the patient's extent of disease and relevant comorbidities, and gain up-to-date knowledge about the patient's underlying illness and appropriate treatment options.
- Find out what the patient has been told by other health care professionals in order to provide consistent information (where appropriate).  
For example, speak with the referring specialist or general practitioner, have a case conference if required.

*Clayton JM, Hancock KM, Butow PN, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for communicating prognosis and end-of-life issues with adults in the advanced stages of a life-limiting illness, and their caregivers. Med J Aust 2007; 286(12): S79-S108. © Copyright 2007 The Medical Journal of Australia – reproduced with permission.*

