

CAREGIVING DYNAMICS: Questions to Consider

- What is your relationship to the patient?
- Will you be the main caregiver?
- Do you live with the patient?
- Do you live nearby?
- Are you organized?
- Are you assertive?
- Do you already take good care of yourself?
- What is your financial status?
- Do you know the financial status of the patient?
- Will you be the only one taking care of this person?
- What does your normal day look like?
- Will you be responsible for taking this person to appointments?
- Does the patient have organized and accessible records?
- Has the patient talked with you about their care?
- Do you have a caregiving plan and do all family members understand and agree with the Plan?
- Have you been in the medical setting before?
- Do you have access to insurance policies (medical and prescription)s?
- Do you have power of attorney?
- Are you set up for impromptu hospital stays?
- Do you need referrals?
- Can you take pictures with your phone?
- Are you going to be able to shop and cook for special meals?
- Do you have good nutrition in place for yourself?
- Do you have a reliable vehicle?
- Do you know how to ask for help?
- Do you know what to ask help for?
- Is the home where the patient is staying clean and safe?
- Are you okay with travel in bad weather?
- Do you have a list of what to bring on hospital stays both planned and impromptu?
- Do you know who to call after hours?
- Do you have contacts set up in your phone (numbers and email)?
- Do you have someone set up to take care of pets, mail, lights?
- Is your place of employment aware of your new lifestyle?
- Do you have a network established: family, friends, health care?
- Do you have an action plan for the next phase?
- Do you have an action plan for the unexpected?
- Did you consider a life alert device and/or medical bracelet?
- Do you have a list of current medications posted in several locations?
- Do you have a notification site set up to disseminate the patient's health status?
- Are you aware of forms that your hospital requires to enable you to make and discuss health decisions for the patient?
- Are you comfortable discussing health changes with the patient?
- Do you have a way to efficiently communicate with others?
- Do you know who to talk to if you cannot answer these questions?
- Do you have a Plan B?