

WHEN IS THE REASONABLE TIME TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF CAREGIVERS END-OF-LIFE CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THEIR LOVED ONE?

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As a mentor, I try very hard to make no judgment as to the likelihood of survival time-frame despite diagnostics, Gleason Scores, and obvious aggressive advanced cancer indicating a patient's life will likely be shortened. How can any of us know? I've known many men, and been in long term contact with them, who one would think may have a difficult time in reining in their very aggressive prostate cancer for any reasonable length of time...yet, who end up surviving for several years beyond expectations with reasonably good health before their advanced cancer eventually overcomes all treatment procedures and medications.

However, when my exchanges are with caregivers and it appears evident all treatment and available medications have become exhausted, the patient's diagnostics indicate his cancer is proliferating, he is experiencing severe metastases, and it has become obvious his body is no longer tolerating this internal abuse to his system, that I explain to the caregiver why I am providing my paper regarding "End-of-life Considerations." At this stage of the patient's cancer it becomes important that the caregiver is aware of the several steps that must be considered, particularly if the patient has been the primary manager of finances; has taken care of bills; was the one who kept track of those bills that are paid quarterly, semi-annually, or annually; who has been maintaining files of those requirements and receipts; who has been the one taking care of minor repairs of the home; in whose name is the home and family vehicles; whether a will is up-to-date; and really, endless information that the caregiver must become aware before the patient's demise.

To review "End-of-life Considerations" please click here:
<http://tinyurl.com/6xlz6mm>).