### Palliative Care Checklist

- Assess patient/caregiver medical literacy
- Assess patient/caregiver willingness to hear prognosis
- Assess patient/caregiver role preferences
  - Patient prefers to share the decision with _________________________
  - Patient prefers to decide him/herself after hearing the views of _________________________
  - Patient prefers that someone else decides
  - Patient prefers to decide on his/her own
- Assess patient/caregiver understanding of diagnosis, illness, and prognosis
- Offer clarification of treatment goals*
- Use standardized symptom assessment tools (Edmonton Symptom Assessment Scale or Condensed Memorial Symptom Assessment Scale)**
  - Pain*
  - Pulmonary symptoms (cough, dyspnea)*
  - Fatigue and sleep disturbance*
  - Mood (depression and anxiety)*
  - GI (anorexia and weight loss, nausea and vomiting, constipation)*
- Screen for distress (with tool such as Distress Thermometer)
- Refer for or conduct psychosocial assessment
- Refer for psychosocial support
- Refer to social work for practical issues (e.g. financial, caregiver, home health, transportation)
- For patients who are earlier in the disease course, consider referral for nutrition, physical and occupational therapy support.
- Identify care plan for future appointments*
- Document referrals to other care providers*/information and/or support sources
  - Document referral to hospice
  - Advanced Directive
  - DNR
- Document new medications prescribed*
- Document patient/caregivers primary concerns and/or issues


**Pain and Symptom Management tools – National Palliative Care Research Center -
http://www.npcrc.org/resources/resources_show.htm?doc_id=376168

This list is derived from recommendations in the ASCO Palliative Care Provisional Clinical Opinion (2012). This is a practice tool based on an ASCO® provisional clinical opinion and is not intended to substitute for the independent professional judgment of the treating physician. Provisional clinical opinions do not account for individual variation among patients. This tool does not purport to suggest any particular course of medical treatment. Use of the provisional clinical opinion and this tool are voluntary. The provisional clinical opinion and additional information are available at http://www.asco.org/pcp/palliativecare. Copyright © 2012 by the American Society of Clinical Oncology. All rights reserved.