

Age-Friendly Assessment: Eliciting Healthcare Goals in the ED

The questions below were tested with emergency department patients and are phrased for clarity. The questions are intended to be used by clinicians, social workers, volunteers, or other ancillary personnel. Prompts are provided in italics to help the interviewer elicit information most useful for the care team.

These questions were developed with support from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Foundation (Large Project Grant, 2025-2027, PI Dr. Anita Chary, MD PhD). Questions related to the patient's primary concern and goal of the ED visit are adapted from Patient Priorities Care (patientprioritiescare.org), materials for the Emergency Department setting.

Interviewer's Guide

PRIMARY CONCERN

When you came into the ED today, what was your biggest worry about your health?

GOAL OF ED VISIT

What are you most hoping will happen from this ED visit?

(Figuring out what's going on/diagnosis, controlling symptoms, getting back to routine, getting reassurance, coordinating care, completing a referral?)

PREFERENCES ABOUT HOSPITAL ADMISSION

Let's say that today, we find we can treat you here in the hospital or at home with follow-up. What would you prefer? (Why?)

CAREGIVING SUPPORT

While you recover, you might need help with day-to-day activities. Are there people who live with you? Are there people who could come to help you with this?

(With things like medications, helping you around your home, monitoring and making sure you're feeling okay, or just checking in on you?)

☐ Lives alone

☐ Lives with others: *(roommates vs. family members)* _____

Specific things that family, friends, home health, community could help with: _____

(check-in/monitoring for worsening symptoms, meal preparation, medication pick-up, getting to bathroom to toilet/bathe, transferring from chair/bed, transportation to a medical appointment)

OUTPATIENT FOLLOW-UP

Do you have a doctor you see regularly?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Type of doctor, if specified:

(If has a regular doctor) How easy or hard would it be to follow up with your doctor within the week?

Note Template

The following can be used as a note template or for a smart phrase in the electronic health record to summarize the conversation with the patient and/or care partner. If someone outside of the clinical team asks these questions and documents responses, summaries should be brief and any text that is not applicable should be removed. This improves readability and comprehensibility for an ED clinician or team that must review a large amount of information under time constraints.

Age-Friendly Assessment

PRIMARY CONCERN

When you came into the ED today, what was your biggest worry about your health?

[Insert patient response]

GOAL OF ED VISIT

What are you most hoping will happen from this ED visit?

[Insert patient response]

PREFERENCES ABOUT HOSPITAL ADMISSION

Let's say that today, we find we can treat you here in the hospital or at home with follow-up. What would you prefer? (Why?)

[Insert patient response]

CAREGIVING SUPPORT

While you recover, you might need help with day-to-day activities. Are there people who live with you? Are there people who could come to help you with this?

☐ Lives alone

☐ Lives with others:

Specific things that family, friends, home health, community could help with:

Note to interviewer: Delete any categories that don't apply

☐ check-in/monitoring for worsening symptoms

☐ meal preparation

☐ medication pick-up

☐ getting to bathroom to toilet/bathe

☐ transferring from chair/bed

☐ transportation to a medical appointment vs. patient drives on their own

☐ other

OUTPATIENT FOLLOW-UP

Do you have a doctor you see regularly?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Type of doctor, if specified:

(If has a regular doctor) How easy or hard would it be to follow up with your doctor within the week?

[Insert patient response]