

Best Case/Worst Case

"I have bad news. You have a serious problem that will change your life."

"We have a choice between 2 options"

"In the best case ..."

1. Realistic best long-term treatment outcome: *"I think your mom will eventually get home, but weaker and needing more assistance."*
2. Short-term implications: tell a story about what treatment & recovery entail, e.g. hospital course, SNF: *"To get her there, we will need to do a big surgery, she will be in the ICU for 2-4 days, then in the hospital for another week, then rehab for 1-2 months."*
3. Orient into context of patient's overall health & prognosis *"...still needs oxygen for her COPD."*

"In the worst case ..."

Describe points 1-3. When death is possible, avoid euphemisms, e.g. "die" is preferred to "pass on".

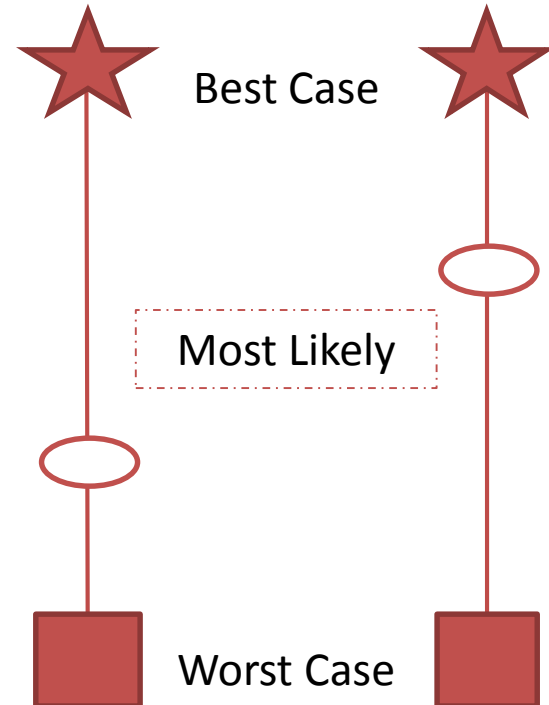
"Based on what I know about you, what I think is most likely..."

- ***"How are you thinking about this?"***
- ***"Based on what I'm hearing from you, would it be alright if I make a recommendation?"***

Best Case/Worst Case

Treatment 1

Treatment 2



What is important to you now?