

TOP 8 THINGS TO REALIZE ABOUT SHARED DECISION MAKING

- 1** It is common for parents and caregivers to worry about their choices, especially those who are faced with difficult, complex decisions to make on behalf of their child.
- 2** Parents and caregivers need to feel that they are valued members of the team, experts on their child, and advocates for their goals and values.
- 3** Parents and caregivers want the care team to respect the family's priorities and to help them achieve their goals.
- 4** Parents and caregivers want clinicians to understand their child as a unique individual.
- 5** Parents and caregivers want to believe that they are making the best decisions they can, given the information they have available to them.
- 6** Families' hopes, concerns, and needs should always be at the center of decision-making.
- 7** Parents and caregivers should understand that there is always a choice, and that it is acceptable to ask for time to weigh the pros and cons of any decision.
- 8** Building mutual trust and respect among the care team helps parents and caregivers feel confident in their choices.