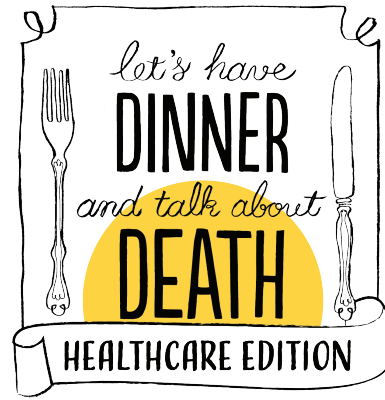


So, You're Hosting a Death Dinner...



TIPS FOR HOSTING

Each table has one paper with conversation prompts for the evening. Choose one facilitator per table who reads each question to the group and also answers when it's their turn. No looking ahead!

Supply one candle per participant. In the beginning, each person lights a candle to honor someone who has passed. Make sure each table has a lighter.

When there's more than one table, remind everyone before dinner starts to use indoor voices so volume in the room doesn't become a distraction.

Assigned seats allow a table to be well curated, mixing various roles. You don't want doctors at one table and nurses and social workers, for example, at another. Intermingling roles makes for a more powerful experience. It is also helpful to curate a balance of people who are reserved with those who are less reserved.

If at a restaurant, place your dinner orders with the servers before you begin. This minimizes interruptions during dinner. It is helpful if servers coordinate with the kitchen to begin bringing food after all of the candles are lit. Let the guests know that food will not come until everyone has honored someone who has passed. Communicate these needs with the servers before guests arrive.

Remind participants that when remembering a patient, leave out unnecessary details of the clinical case, and focus rather on why the patient impacted you in a specific way. The emphasis is on personal impact you felt.

Sometimes there will be people who metaphorically hold their cards close to the chest for the entire dinner. In this case, the facilitator can use a bonus question: If you just found out you have 1 hour to live, you cannot leave where you are, your loved ones cannot come to you - you can only make one call, who do you call and what do you say to them?

Thank you for hosting a death dinner!

