Disclosure Slide

- I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this program or presentation.
How to ask the What Ifs and Resources

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Objectives

- Offer some tips or approaches with that “conversation”
- Provide information on some quality resources in our community to offer help and hope
- Underscore the need for an interdisciplinary approach from the community based and medical providers
Reference materials

- A Clinician’s Handbook Talking with Your Older Patient, - National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health #08-7105
Chapter 7
Breaking the Bad News

- It isn’t easy: everyone handles bad news differently—shock, sorrow, anger, denial, disbelief
- The Education in Palliative and End of Life Project (EPEC) [www.epec.net](http://www.epec.net)
Steps

- Prepare yourself—think about what you want to say and make sure you have all the information you need
- Be sure there is enough time— the end of the day?
- Find out what the person knows about the condition
- Find out what the person wants to know
• Be as straight forward as possible
• Be positive but don’t minimize the seriousness of dx... “I feel bad to have to tell you”
• Have materials available i.e. SMAA brochure, Senior News, Savvy schedule, Caring for a Person with Alzheimer’s Disease.
• Embed a social worker in your practice- Intermed did!!!
• Provide reassurance that you and others will help
• Have an informational packet of helpful materials
• Establish a plan- arrange another visit/appointment so you both stay connected through this journey
• Link to Community Links-
  www.mainecommunitylinks.org
In follow up visits assess the emotional state of the patient and family to see if other interventions are needed

Refer to the AAA and other community based programs like the Alzheimer’s Association
Why the AAA as a Resource?

- Each has a Family Caregiver Program
- Each has well trained social worker staff
- Up to date options like Putting the Puzzle Together, Savvy I and II, one on one guidance, resource materials
Adult Day Services to provide respite, fun, and purposeful activities
- Person Centered Approach
- Future Biddeford site
- Future Falmouth site
Interdisciplinary Approaches

- There is work for everyone
- Each discipline brings something very special to the table
- Learning takes place in a nurturing environment
- This approach sees clients and families as “whole” beings
- Thank you