

Interactive Activity Participant Best Practices Reference Sheet

Best Practice Considerations Checklist

There are a number of best practices to consider when developing effective communications about benefit, risk and uncertainty for medical devices. Through this report, MDIC and its working group developed a checklist of eight best practice elements:

	Best Practice	Description
1	Explicit description of the decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve patients in decisions about screening, treatment, and other interventions • Provide information about the options and their associated relevant outcomes • Help patients personalize the information and understand that they can be involved in choosing among the various options
2	Description of the health problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide evidence-based information about the health condition
3	Information on options and their benefits, harms and consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe potential benefits: favorable effects or desirable outcomes of a diagnostic or therapeutic strategy. • Describe potential harms: unfavorable effects or undesirable outcomes of a diagnostic or therapeutic strategy • Review risk: the probability of a harm (the greater the risk the more likely a harm is to occur) and an assessment of the severity of a potential harm
4	Values clarification (implicit & explicit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help patients recognize how their values relate to the decision • Clarify the value patients place on the benefits, harms, and scientific uncertainties associated with the treatment option
5	Numerical probabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of a relative risk reduction has been shown to be better understood than an absolute risk reduction • Natural frequencies are sometimes better understood and easier to interpret than probabilities • Patients who are less comfortable with numbers rank frequency as higher risk than percentage
6	Personal Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides examples of patient experience with a specific treatment option • Helps patients gather and share information among a community of others with similar experience. • Provides detailed insights about the disease journey
7	Patient Preference Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When faced with one or more options, an individual decides to choose one option over the other(s), thereby expressing a “preference” for one option over another • Patients involved in making choices about health care will express preferences among the available treatments • Having this information can help other patients make decisions among treatment options
8	Presentation strategies to help understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider literacy of patients for whom this information is intended • Gauge patients’ digital literacy when technological tools are used to present information • Graphic information has been shown to be preferred for understanding compared with text or tables • Consider the impact that ordering of benefit and risk information can have on patients’ understanding