

Go Wish

Make time to talk to your loved ones about your choices.

Go Wish gives you an easy, even entertaining way to talk about what is most important to when facing illness, your own or that of a loved one. The cards help you find words to talk about what is important if you were to be living a life that may be shortened by serious illness. Playing the game with your relatives or best friends can help you learn how you can best comfort your loved ones when they need you most.

Go Wish can be played by one, two or more people.

Each deck has 36 cards. Thirty-five of the cards describe things that people often say are important when they are very sick or dying. The cards describe how people want to be treated, who they want near them, and what matters to them. One card is a "wild card." You can use this card to stand for something you want that isn't on any of the other cards.

Ways to Play

Go Wish Solitaire

This is a good way to figure out what is important to you and why.

1. Read through all 36 cards. Sort them into three piles:
 - Very important to me
 - Somewhat important to me
 - Not important to me
2. NOTE: Putting a card in the "Not important to me" pile does not necessarily mean that you don't care about what is written on the card. It could simply mean that this is something that you have already taken care of. For example, if all of your financial affairs are completely in order, taking care of your financial affairs is no longer one of your top ten concerns.
3. You can use the wild card to stand for something you want that is not on any of the other cards. For example: "To live in my own home." or "To be able to recognize my family and friends." That card can go into any of the three piles.
4. When you have three piles, sort through your "very important" pile. Choose the 10 wishes that mean the most to you. If you don't have 10 cards in your "very important" pile, choose some from your "somewhat important" pile. If you have more than 10 in your "very important" pile, sort through them and put some of the cards into the "somewhat important" or "not important" piles until you only have 10 cards in your "very important" pile.
5. Rank your 10 "very important" cards, putting the most important ones at the top of the pile. This is your Top 10.
6. Think about how you would explain to your family or friends why those things are your Top 10 wishes. Think about your "not important" pile and how you would explain to your family or friends why those things are not important to you. Then make time to talk to them about your choices.

Go Wish Pairs

This can be a good game to play with someone who might become your healthcare agent. It is especially important for that person (your healthcare agent) to understand your wishes. It is best to play with two decks of cards.

If you are playing with the actual printed cards, you will need two decks. If you are playing on-line, each of you should play on your own computer connected to the Internet. You don't have to be in the same room or even the same time-zone to play on-line!

1. Each player reads through all 36 cards. Each player divides them into three piles.
 - Very important to me
 - Somewhat important to me
 - Not important to me
2. Talk about the differences in how you ranked some values. Be sure to explain your choices. It is important for Player B to understand Player A's wishes.
3. Both players also may choose their own Top 10 from the "most important" pile of cards. Again, talk about why those are the most important.

Using Go Wish with Families

Go Wish cards can be used to facilitate a discussion about a loved one who cannot make decisions for themselves.

Give each family member a deck of cards. Each person distributes cards into piles according to what they think their ill loved one would say:

- (Name) would say this is very important to him/her
- (Name) would say this is somewhat important to him/her
- (Name) would say this is not important to him/her

Next, each family member takes the Very Important Pile and chooses the top 5 cards: The things he/she believe would be MOST important t to their loved one.

Then each family member shares the "top 5".

Differences are discussed, especially when those differences could lead to different choices in treatment, location of care or goals of care.

Go Wish as Homework

Go Wish can be played at home or online in advance of any care planning discussion to assist people in thinking about choices for themselves or others.