

BROADCAST- Pediatric oncologist promotes 'regret prevention' care approach

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When a child is facing a very serious illness, an expert in pediatric oncology says too often families engage in mutual pretense – they act as though everything is ok. Dr. Justin Baker of Stanford Medicine recently visited OSF HealthCare in Peoria and advised medical providers to promote communication among families to make sure the patient and family's goals drive treatment decisions.

VO or Radio Package:

Dr. Justin Baker, chief of Quality of Life and Pediatric Palliative Care at Stanford Medicine says palliative care works along with traditional treatment to reduce suffering, not only physically but emotionally and spiritually. It's what Dr. Baker describes as a holistic approach that involves every member of the care team. He recently told OSF HealthCare providers they need to foster honest communication to make sure the patient's goals inform treatment.

"I think preventing regret is one of the most important things we can do and the best way to do it is to walk alongside that family, helping them make these very difficult decisions and that we carry some of that weight." (:14)

Dr. Baker stresses that honesty doesn't steal hope; it allows families to hope for the best and prepare for every outcome.