



# Certifying Exam

## Case Materials

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## DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

### CASE SAMPLE VIDEO

Use of the case materials in this document are demonstrated [here](#).



### CASE SUMMARY

Having difficult conversations such as breaking bad news to patients and families is an essential skill for an emergency physician. These discussions may include sensitive, unwanted, or unexpected information. A successful candidate will establish rapport and effectively communicate in an empathetic manner.

### SCORING

Information on how this case will be scored can be found [here](#).



DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS CANDIDATE TASK SHEET		ROOM #
<b>CASE PARAMETERS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a 10-minute case.</li> <li>• You will interact with a patient.</li> <li>• You will discuss the new cancer diagnosis with Mr. Martinez.</li> <li>• Answer the patient's questions and explain next steps.</li> </ul>		
<b>PATIENT INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Patient Name</b>	John Martinez	
<b>Age</b>	65 y/o	
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Male	
<b>Presenting Complaint</b>	Upper abdominal pain	
<b>General Appearance / History of Present Illness</b>	Abd pain for 5 weeks, weight loss.	
<b>Past Medical History</b>	Duodenal ulcer (20 years ago)	
<b>Medication</b>	Restarted ulcer medication 7 days ago	
<b>Allergies</b>	None	
<b>Vital Signs on ED Arrival</b>	Normal	
<b>PHYSICAL EXAM FINDINGS</b>		
A CT abdomen/pelvis was ordered by the initial emergency physician (Dr. Chan), who was signed-out to you at shift change. His CT is done and shows a new diagnosis of metastatic colon cancer.		
<b>TASK STATEMENT</b>		
Your task is to inform Mr. Martinez of the unexpected new diagnosis of metastatic colon cancer.		