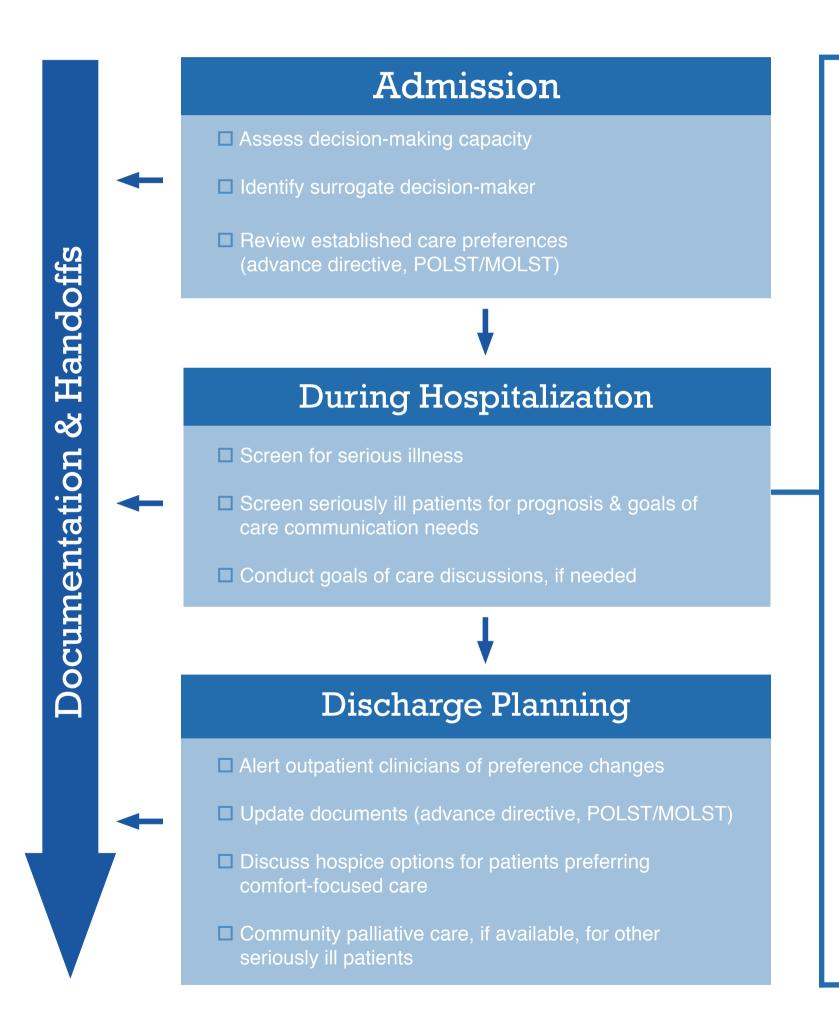
# **Prognosis and Goals of Care Communication Pathway**

## Figure 1: Hospital Prognosis and Goals of Care Communication Pathway

This primary palliative care pathway synthesizes best practices in hospital-based prognosis and goals of care communication identified by the work group. This Figure shows how key processes map onto time points of the typical workflow of hospitalists and their teams. Pathway implementation can be tailored by hospitals to reflect state and local law concerning advance directives, portable medical orders, and other relevant policy. Each step in this pathway must be documented in the patient's medical record, so that clinicians can view information about previous screening, care, and communication over the course of a hospitalization.



#### Serious Illness Screen

- · Identify life-limiting conditions, including multimorbidity
- Consider functional status and readmissions
- Would you be surprised by the patient's death in the next 12 months?

## Screen for Prognosis & Goals of Care Communication Needs

- 1. Assess the patient's prognosis and treatment options
- 2. Elicit other clinicians' assessments (e.g. primary care, oncology)
- 3. Elicit patient/surrogate understanding of and questions about prognosis, treatment goals
  - If clinicians and patient/surrogate have a different understanding of prognosis and goals, plan Prognosis & Goals of Care Discussion

### Prognosis & Goals of Care Discussion(s)

- 1. Identify: Patient/surrogate questions and concerns
- 2. Prognosis: Assess understanding and needs; provide information
- 3. Explore: Patient/surrogate hopes, values, and preferences, given the prognosis
- 4. Treatments: Review options; assist patient/surrogate in selecting plan that aligns with hopes, values, preferences
  - Include or update bedside nurse and other team members
  - Involve palliative care service, if available, for complex cases



