<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S P I K E S</th>
<th>BREAKING BAD NEWS</th>
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| **S**ETTING | Find a quiet location; private if possible.  
Invite the important people to be present.  
Have tissues and enough chairs.  
Turn off the ringer on your phone/pager. |
| **P**ERCEPTION | “Tell me what you understand about your illness.”  
“What have the other doctors told you about your illness?”  
Look for knowledge and emotional information as the patient responds |
| **I**NVITATION | “Would it be okay for me to discuss the results of your tests with you now?”  
“How do you prefer to discuss medical information in your family?”  
“Some people prefer a global picture of what is happening and others like all the details, what do you prefer?” |
| **K**NOWLEDGE | Give a warning... “I have something serious we need to discuss”  
Avoid medical jargon. Say it simply and stop. (e.g. “Your cancer has spread to your liver. It is getting worse despite our treatments.”) |
| **E**MPATHY | Wait quietly for the patient.  
“I know this is not what you expected to hear today.” “This is very difficult news.” |
| **S**UMMARY | “We’ve talked about a lot of things today, can you please tell me what you understand.”  
“Let’s set up a follow-up appointment.” |