**Supplementary Table 1: Guideline for SPC counselling**

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| General aspects:  Personal consultation interview of approximately 60 minutes (45 – 90 min)  Primary consultation by a specialist for palliative care  Palliative care nurses, social workers and psychologists should be included as needed.  Content that has to be addressed in every consultation:   * Typical symptoms of advanced cancer and their treatment options * Pain * Weakness, tiredness, fatigue * Dry mounth * Nausea and emesis * Loss of appetite * Dyspnoe * Changes and challenges when nearing end of life * Different structures of palliative and hospice care * Specific local structures of palliative and hospice care, including hand out of contact addresses * Specific structures of palliative care at the comprehensive cancer center, hand out of important contact addresses * Advance directives (patient decree and power of attorney), including offer of templates   Explicitly ask if there are any further questions, problems or needs concerning the patients himself/herself or his/her family caregivers.  Potential consequences:   * Recommendation for medical or non-medical treatment of symptom burden * Preparing a patient decree and/or power of attorney together * Transferring the patient to a specialist outpatient palliative care or hospice service * Recommendation of further forms of specialized counselling * Admitting the patient to the palliative care ward * Planning further palliative care counselling |