QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR HEALTH CARE TEAM

When your health care team talks about your diagnosis and treatment, it’s important to ask questions about anything you don’t understand. As you start getting more information about your diagnosis, you will learn that there are many effective treatment options and many places you can turn to for help and hope.

Questions to Ask Your Health Care Team About Your Diagnosis

What is my specific diagnosis? ________________________________

Have you treated other patients with my type of cancer? ________________

Where is the cancer located? ________________________________

What are my treatment options? ________________________________

What is the recommended treatment? ________________________________

How long does this kind of treatment usually last? ________________

What are the possible side effects of treatment? ________________________________

Should I get a second opinion? ________________________________

What stage is my cancer and what are the different types of stages? ________________

If something unexpected comes up, who should I call? ________________________________

Who can I talk to about insurance questions? ________________________________

What’s the best time to call you if I have a question? ________________________________
Questions to Ask Your Health Care Team About Your Treatment

What are the goals for this treatment?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
What if my symptoms feel worse during treatment?
________________________________________________________________________
How will it be given? Will I need to go to the doctor’s office or hospital to get my treatment, or will I get medication I can take at home?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
How often will I receive treatment, and for how long?
________________________________________________________________________
What are the possible benefits and risks of this treatment?
________________________________________________________________________
How much will my treatment cost?
________________________________________________________________________
Who can I talk to about financial assistance?
________________________________________________________________________
If I have questions during my treatment and my doctor is not available, who can I ask? For example, is there a nurse, social worker, or other specialist available?
________________________________________________________________________
Should I consider participating in a clinical trial?
________________________________________________________________________

Other Questions to Ask Your Health Care Team

Will I be able to continue working while undergoing treatment?
________________________________________________________________________
Will my appearance change – for example, will I lose my hair?
________________________________________________________________________
What will be energy levels be like during treatment?
________________________________________________________________________
Should I avoid certain foods or have a certain diet while undergoing treatment?
________________________________________________________________________

Will this treatment affect my fertility?
________________________________________________________________________

CancerCare® Can Help

Founded in 1944, CancerCare is the leading national organization providing free support services and information to help people manage the emotional, practical and financial challenges of cancer. Our comprehensive services include counseling and support groups over the phone, online and in-person, educational workshops, publications and financial and co-payment assistance. All CancerCare services are provided by professional oncology social workers and world-leading cancer experts.

To learn more, visit www.cancercare.org or call 800-813-HOPE (4673).

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