

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Provider About Treatment Options

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Asking your healthcare provider questions at any phase of your treatment will help you take an active role in managing your (or your child's) care. If you do not understand any part of the information your healthcare provider gives you, ask him or her to explain it in another way.

Doctor's name _____

Date of appointment or call _____

1. What are my (my child's) treatment options? What is the goal of the treatment?

2. What are the FDA-approved treatments, and are there treatments being studied in clinical trials (study treatments), for my (my child's) diagnosis?*

3. What are the benefits and risks of the treatment(s) available to me (my child)? What are the expected side effects?

4. Is there one treatment option (FDA-approved or study treatment) that you recommend over the others? Please explain.

5. If I (my child) enrolls in a clinical trial, who will be in charge of my (my child's) treatment?

6. When do you think I (my child) will need to begin treatment?

7. How long will I (my child) be treated and how many treatments will be needed?

8. Will I (my child) need to be hospitalized for all or part of the treatment?

*For definitions of an FDA-approved treatment and a clinical trial (study treatment), visit www.lls.org or contact an Information Specialist.

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9. What kind of testing will be done to monitor my (my child's) disease and treatment? How often will testing be needed?

10. If I am treated at an out-patient clinic or at the doctor's office, will I be able to drive/get myself home after treatments or will I need someone to assist me?

11. What are the risks if I don't (my child doesn't) get treatment?

12. How will I know if the treatment is effective? What options are available if the treatment is not effective?

13. How do I find out if my insurance will cover the costs of my (my child's) treatment or the study treatment? Who can help answer any medical questions my insurance company or health plan asks?

14. If I do not have insurance coverage, how can the healthcare team help me (my child) get treatment? Is there someone I need to speak to for assistance?

15. If I'm (my child is) getting a study treatment, will I be responsible for paying any treatment-related costs, such as tests, travel or the clinical trial drug(s)?

16. Will the healthcare team continue to check on me (my child) after the treatment is over? If so, for what period of time?

17. I (My child) would like to continue some type of lifelong follow-up care in order to be monitored for long-term and late effects of treatment. Can I (my child) follow up with you?

To print additional copies of this question guide, or to print copies of question guides on other topics, go to www.lls.org/whattoask. You may also request that copies be sent to you by contacting an Information Specialist at (800) 955-4572.