

Questions you may find helpful to ask your clinician following a cancer diagnosis

We welcome your questions and are keen to help make appointments as useful as they can be to you.

Considering the questions you may want to ask beforehand can help ensure appointments cover the most important aspects to you. You can also discuss what to ask with your loved ones.

These examples are provided to help you decide what you'd like to know. There is no pressure to ask a certain number of questions; feel free to ask as many or as few as you need.

Summary list

- ▶ Is it treatable?
- ▶ What will further tests involve / show?
- ▶ How bad is the cancer and what does it mean for me?
- ▶ Is the treatment likely to improve my survival? And / or my symptoms?
- ▶ How would treatment affect my lifestyle and what matters to me?
- ▶ Who should I contact if I have any concerns about my symptoms?

Diagnosis

- ▶ Where is the cancer at the moment?
- ▶ What has caused my cancer?
- ▶ Has it spread to other parts of my body?
- ▶ Is it treatable?

Tests / investigations

- ▶ What further tests do I need?
- ▶ What will the tests involve?
- ▶ What can I expect during and after the tests?
- ▶ What will they tell us?

Prognosis

- ▶ How bad is the cancer? What does that mean for me?
- ▶ What symptoms will the cancer cause?
- ▶ What is the aim of treatment?
- ▶ How likely is it that the cancer will spread with / without any more treatment?
- ▶ What's the best-case scenario and worst-case scenario?
- ▶ Where do you see me on that spectrum?
- ▶ Is the treatment likely to improve my survival? And / or my symptoms?

Treatment decisions

- ▶ What choice of treatment do I have?
- ▶ What are the pros and cons of treatment options? Or of no treatment?
- ▶ What will the side effects of treatment be?
- ▶ How long will side effects last?
- ▶ How would treatment affect my lifestyle & what matters to me?
- ▶ What is your opinion about the best treatment for me?
- ▶ When would the treatment start? What would the schedule be?

Getting ready for treatment

- ▶ Is there anything I can do before or after my treatment that might make it more effective (e.g. diet, exercise)?
- ▶ What are the dos and don'ts whilst having treatment?
- ▶ What problems should I look out for and who do I contact if they occur?
- ▶ What is my longer term follow up plan?
- ▶ Would you mind if I got a second opinion?
- ▶ What is the process of getting a second opinion?

Clinical trials

- ▶ What are clinical trials?
- ▶ Are there any that might be relevant to me?
- ▶ How might they help me?

Other information / support

- ▶ Are there any other services or organisations that can help me and my family deal with my diagnosis?

Your questions overleaf →

Your questions

If you think of any other questions, you can write them below

