

QUESTIONS FOR THE HEALTHCARE TEAM

Asking the members of the healthcare team questions helps you take an active role in managing your loved one's care. If you do not understand any part of the information the healthcare provider shares with you, ask them to explain it in a different way. The medical terminology used can be difficult to understand, especially when the diagnosis is new and you haven't had time to learn about it.

Diagnosis and Testing

What is my loved one's exact diagnosis?

What is the stage of the disease?

Treatment

What is the recommended treatment? What are the benefits and risks? Are there any additional treatment options such as a clinical trial?

How long will the treatment last?

What are the goals of treatment?

How much time does my loved one have to make a decision about the treatment plan?

Will my loved one be in the hospital or be at an outpatient center for treatment?

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What kind of testing will be done to monitor the disease and its treatment? How often will testing be needed?

How will we know if my loved one's treatment is effective? What options are available if the treatment is not effective?

Side Effects

What are the common immediate- and long-term effects of treatment?

What signs and/or symptoms indicate that I should call the healthcare team?

Whom can I contact after hours with questions or concerns?

What signs and/or symptoms indicate a trip to the emergency room is necessary?

If appropriate: Can their fertility be preserved before their treatment begins? How will treatment affect sexuality?

If appropriate: Is it possible to get a palliative care referral for help managing side effects?

Will my loved one need to follow a special diet or avoid any specific foods?

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Social/Financial Concerns

What kind of financial and social support services are available to my loved one and me?

Who is the best person to speak to about bills and insurance coverage?

If appropriate: If my loved one does not have insurance coverage, whom can we speak to for assistance?

Follow-Up Care

Will the healthcare team continue to check on my loved one after their treatment is over? If so, for how long?

If my loved one experiences long-term effects in survivorship, whom can we contact?

Can you give my loved one (or me) a written follow-up care plan or a survivorship care plan?
