



Key Questions Checklist

1. Diagnosis

- What is my diagnosis?
- Is my condition chronic or acute?
- Is there anything I can do to cure, treat, and/or prevent it from getting worse?
- Is my condition contagious or genetic?
- How certain are you about this diagnosis?

2. Treatment

- What is the recommended treatment?
- Is there a support group for my condition?

If you are discussing medications:

- What will the medicine do for my particular problem?
- When, how often, and for how long should I take the medicine?
- How long before the medicine starts working?
- Will there be side effects?
- Will there be interactions with other medications I am taking?

If you are discussing a test:

- What is the test called and how will it help identify the problem? Will it give specific or general information?
- Will more tests be necessary?
- How accurate and reliable is the test?
- How should I prepare for the test?
- Where do I go for the test?
- How and when will I get the test's results?

If you are discussing surgery:

- What are my options for surgery? Which one do you advise?
- How many of these surgeries have you done and what were the results?
- Can I get a step-by-step account of the procedure, including anesthesia and recovery?

3. Benefits vs. Risks

- What are the benefits if I go ahead with the treatment?
- What are the possible risks and complications?
- Do the benefits outweigh the risks?

4. Success

- What is the success rate for the treatment?
- Are there any personal factors that will affect my odds either way?
- How long will the results of treatment last?

5. Timing

- When is the best time to begin the treatment?
- When can I expect to see results?

6. Alternatives

- What will happen if I decide to do nothing?
- What are my other options?

7. Cost

- What is the cost for the treatment?
- What related costs should I consider (e.g., time off work, travel, etc.).

8. Decision

- You can now make an informed decision.
- You have the right to choose or refuse treatment.