

Making Decisions about your Medical Care after a Diagnosis or Recommended Treatment:

What to Ask Your Doctor.....

1. What is the usual course of this condition?
2. What is known about it, and what is unknown?
3. What are my chances of recovery?
4. What will “the new normal” be after recovery?
5. What are the changes that I will be worse off?
6. What will (a recommended test) tell you? Will it make any difference to my plan of care?
7. How will (a recommended treatment) affect my functioning?
8. What complications might I experience as a result of this treatment?
9. Are there other possible treatments?
10. What side effects will I likely experience?
11. What will life be like after this treatment?
12. What kinds of support or care am I likely to need from others after this treatment?
13. If pain or discomfort is involved, how will that be managed?
14. What if I change my mind after the procedure or treatment, can it be stopped/reversed etc.?

Adapted from:

- Advance Care Planning 101: Understanding Your Health Status, Harvard Medical School, Health Beat August, 2019
- At Peace: Choosing a Good Death After a Long Life, Samuel Harrington, MD. New York: Grand Central Life and Style, 2018