

# *Please Ask Your Doctor*

*An interview guide to use with Health Care Professionals.*

You and your doctor or health care professional are partners in maintaining your health and that of your family and loved ones. Sometimes it's hard to remember what is said between doctor and patient. It is perfectly normal to forget some of the information that a doctor or nurse has told you. You may be more nervous than you realize, or the information you have been given may be a lot to digest all at once. You have a **right** to ask, and health care professionals **want** you to understand. Take this folder with you when you talk to your doctor.



## **Diagnosis**

- What is the exact name (diagnosis) of the disease or condition? Please use accepted medical terminology so that I can look it up in a medical dictionary if necessary. If the condition is known by other names, what are they?
  
- What can I expect to happen as a result of having this condition? Please describe the course of the illness and tell me clearly how it will affect my ability to function and work, and how it will affect my life, both short-term and long-term.

## **Treatment**

- What treatment will I receive? Please use the accepted medical terms for this treatment. (If it is a drug treatment, please fill in section 2A).
  
- Does this treatment have any complications? If yes, what are they?
  
- How long does this treatment take?

## Drug Treatment

- What is the name of the drug?
- Is there a generic name?
- Are there any **foods, drinks or other drugs** that I should avoid while taking this medication.
- Are there any **activities** that I should restrict or avoid while taking this drug?
- Are there any **physical conditions or pre-existing conditions** that would preclude me from taking this medicine safely?
- What are the **side effects** of this medicine?
- What should I do if I experience any of these side effects?

## Alternative Treatments

- Are there any alternate forms of treatments or procedures? If so, what are they? Please use accepted medical terms.
- What are the risks or complications of the alternate treatments?