

# Questions to ask

**Before you leave your appointment make sure you know the following:**

**What might be wrong? You could ask the following questions:**

- Can I check that I've understood what you said?  
What you're saying is...
- Can you explain it again? I still don't understand.
- Can I have a copy of any letters written about me?

**What about any further tests, such as blood tests, scans and so on?**

- What are the tests for?
- How and when will I get the results?
- Who do I contact if I don't get the results?

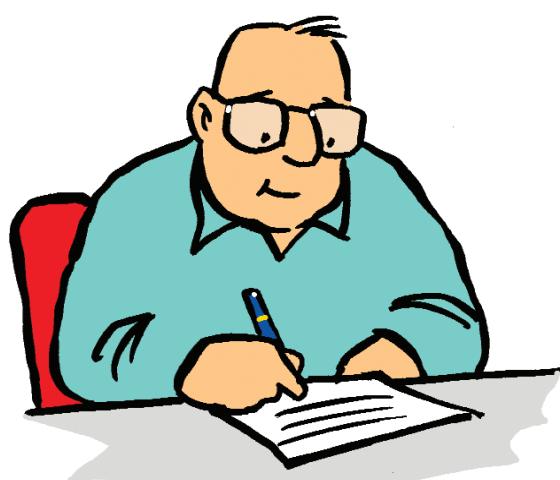


## About what treatment, if any, is best for you

- Are there other ways to treat my condition?
- What do you recommend?
- Are there any side effects or risks?
- How long will I need treatment for?
- How will I know if the treatment is working?
- How effective is this treatment?
- What will happen if I don't have any treatment?
- Is there anything I should stop or avoid doing?
- Is there anything else I can do to help myself?

## What happens next and who to contact

- What happens next? Do I come back and see you?
- Who do I contact if things get worse?
- Do you have any written information?
- Where can I go for more information,  
a support group or more help?



# Top tips



## Before your appointment

- Write down your two or three most important questions.
- List or bring all your medicines and pills – including vitamins and supplements.
- Write down details of your symptoms, including when they started and what makes them better or worse.
- Ask your hospital or surgery for an interpreter or communication support if needed.
- Ask a friend or family member to come with you, if you like.



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## During your appointment

- Don't be afraid to ask if you don't understand.  
For example, 'Can you say that again?  
I still don't understand.'
- If you don't understand any words, ask for them to be written down and explained.
- Write things down, or ask a family member or friend to take notes.

# Top tips



## Before you leave your appointment

- **Check that:**

- you've covered everything on your list
- you understand, for example 'Can I just check I understood what you said?'
- you know what should happen next – and when. Write it down.

- **Ask:**

- who to contact if you have any more problems or questions
- about support groups and where to go for reliable information, and
- for copies of letters written about you – you are entitled to see these.



## After your appointment, don't forget the following

- Write down what you discussed and what happens next. Keep your notes.
- Book any tests that you can and put the dates in your diary.

- **Ask:**

- 'what's happening if I'm not sent my appointment details,' and
- 'can I have the results of any tests?' (If you don't get the results when you expect – ask for them.) Ask what the results mean.