

Questions for Decision Making

If your doctor is talking with you about treatment, the following questions will assist you in determining whether or not the proposed treatment fits your goals, needs, and lifestyle. Weigh the benefit or burden of any treatment with your own desires for certain plans in life.

- What is the goal of this treatment?
Is it to 1) cure me 2) prolong my life or 3) relieve symptoms?
- How will this treatment benefit me?
- Is this a standard or experimental treatment? What are the chances for success in cases such as mine?
- How and when will I know if it is working?
- How will this affect my daily living? Tell me the physical changes I may experience and how they can be managed.
- If I have difficult side effects, how will they be managed and how long might they last?
- Are there potentially any permanent side effects?
- Will I need extra help at home and for how long?
- If I refuse this treatment, what will happen next?
- If I refuse this treatment, will that change your willingness to be my doctor?
- Is this treatment covered under my insurance?
- How soon do I need to make a decision and why?
- Where can I get more information or talk to someone who has received this treatment?
- Are there other ways to manage my disease at this time and why would you recommend them or not?

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