



## **ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT**

If you are being diagnosed with a serious illness, it is important to get all the information you need and want. When you speak with your doctor, ask specific questions that can help you better understand your situation. Questions to ask can include:

- Can you explain my diagnosis in some detail?
- Is it acute and can be expected to be cured, or is it chronic?
- What symptoms may I experience from the illness, and when?
- How will the illness affect my day-to-day functioning and life?
- What are my treatment options?
- What can I expect from the different options? Potential side effects, and when would they occur?
- How long will the treatment take? Can I stop, if I feel better?
- What is my prognosis with or without the suggested treatment options?
- What activities, if any, should I avoid?
- With the insurance I have, could cost be a factor in my treatment choice?
- When do I need a follow-up visit and what is the purpose of that visit?

**If possible, bring someone (family member or friend) with you.** Two sets of ears hear more than one.

**Bring pen and paper, and take notes.**

**If you do not understand something, ask the doctor or nurse to explain again.**