



## **TELLING THE DOCTOR ABOUT YOURSELF**

You and your physician will be talking a lot about your illness and your symptoms, and you will be offered information about your diagnosis. The discussion with your physician will be better, if you share how much information you want and when you want to receive it. Sometimes getting too much information can be as bad as not getting enough.

Think about what you want to know before you visit with your physician. Even if you are not asked, it is a good idea to give him or her your answers to the following questions:

- *Do you like to have all information – good and bad?*
- *Do you like to have information in advance so you know what might happen, or do you want to wait to deal with changes if and when they happen?*
- *How much information do you want about your prognosis (life expectancy)?*
- *Do you want to know the specifics of how you are going to be cared for?*
- *How much information do you want about the medications that will be used to keep you comfortable or to treat your illness?*
- *Do you want to know the average success rate of your treatment (percentages)?*