

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Team

Print this checklist to bring to your next appointment.

If you've been diagnosed with breast cancer, having an open conversation with your doctor is important. Below is a list of questions that may help you learn more about your condition and treatment options. Bring this list with you to help get the conversation started. You should also provide anyone accompanying you with a copy.

Questions to ask if you've just been diagnosed:

- What kind of breast cancer do I have?

Notes: _____

- Is it a good idea to get a second opinion?

Notes: _____

- Who should be on my healthcare team—to help me get the most accurate diagnosis and start planning treatment?

Notes: _____

- How is my family history relevant to my breast cancer diagnosis?

Notes: _____

Questions about treatment:

- How soon should I begin treatment?

Notes: _____

- How is breast cancer usually treated?

Notes: _____

- How should my breast cancer be treated?

Notes: _____

- How can treatment affect my risk of developing breast cancer again in the future?

Notes: _____

- What side effects can different treatments cause?

Notes: _____

- What is genetic testing, and does it make sense for me?

Notes: _____

- What is targeted therapy, and does it make sense for me?

Notes: _____

- What are the potential advantages and disadvantages of a mastectomy versus a lumpectomy, for me?

Notes: _____

- Would I benefit from chemotherapy before surgery?

Notes: _____

- What are the lymph nodes, and should some of mine be removed to prevent my breast cancer from coming back?

Notes: _____

- What else should I be asking members of my healthcare team, before I begin treatment?

Notes: _____

- What are the pros and cons of joining a clinical trial?

Notes: _____