

Important Questions for a Health Care Provider When Making Treatment Decisions

Adapted from work done by Tani Bahti, RN, CT, CHPN

- Is the goal of treatment to cure, prolong life or relieve symptoms?
- What is the best I can hope for with this treatment?
- What is the worst I should prepare for if this doesn't work?
- Is this standard treatment or experimental? What are the chances for success in MY PARTICULAR CASE? What do you define as success?
- How and when will I know it's working?
- How will this treatment impact my daily living, comfort and/or goals? What are the physical changes I may experience and how will you help me manage them?
- If I have side effects, how long might they last? What can be done to prevent or minimize them?
- Are there any potentially permanent side effects?
- Is this covered by my insurance? In full? In part? I need to know the costs I will incur.
- Will I need extra help to manage at home, and if so, for how long?
- If I refuse this treatment, what can I expect to happen?
- If I refuse this treatment, will you still be my health care provider?
- Where can I find a counselor, support group or someone I can talk to about this?
- Do you have material about this treatment that I can take home and review and share with my family?
- Are there other ways to manage my disease? If so, what are they? Would you recommend them? Why not?
- Do you refer your patients to hospice? At what point in their illness trajectory?

*See **Important Questions for You and Your Loved Ones When Making Treatment Decisions**, also on this webpage.