

Questions about treatment

Below are some questions you may wish to ask and people who may be able to answer them. The tick indicates a person you could approach with a particular question, but other people may also be able to help.

Questions

Who you could ask

	Family, friends or partner	Your GP	Your cancer specialist	Your cancer nurse	Macmillan Support Line or other useful organisations
What's the aim of the treatment?		✓	✓	✓	
What will my treatment involve?		✓	✓	✓	
How long will I need to spend in hospital?		✓	✓	✓	
What are the chances of success?		✓	✓	✓	
What will the side effects of treatment be?		✓	✓	✓	
Am I allowed to stop the treatment if I want to?		✓	✓	✓	
What are the alternatives to the treatment being offered?		✓	✓	✓	
Will where I live affect the treatment I get?		✓	✓	✓	

More questions about treatment and rights

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	Family, friends or partner	Your GP	Your cancer specialist	Your cancer nurse	Macmillan Support Line or other useful organisations
What is a clinical trial?			✓	✓	
If I choose not to take part in a clinical trial, how will this affect my treatment?			✓	✓	
What can I do before, during or after my treatment to help my recovery?		✓	✓	✓	
Who can I talk to about how I'm feeling?	✓	✓			✓
How can I get practical and financial support?		✓			✓
I am a carer for my partner. How might the treatment affect this?		✓	✓	✓	
Do I have a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and how do I contact them?		✓	✓	✓	
If I'm not happy with the care I'm receiving, what can I do?	✓	✓			✓

On the tables on the previous pages, we have indicated that the Macmillan Support Line or other helpful organisations may be able to help answer some questions.



The table below shows some organisations that may be able to help and what they could be contacted for.

Helpful organisations

What they could help with

Age UK; Age Northern Ireland; Age Scotland; Age Cymru (Wales)	Financial or practical concerns, and details of local Age UK branches. These offer a range of services to older people that could help if you have been diagnosed with cancer.
Carers UK; Carers Northern Ireland; Carers Scotland; Carers Wales.	Caring for someone with cancer or another health condition.
Citizens Advice (England and Wales)	Financial or practical concerns or questions.
NHS Direct (England); Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland; NHS 24 (Scotland); NHS Direct Wales.	Symptoms and any problems you experience with your health.
Older People's Advocacy Alliance (OPAAL)	Getting practical and emotional support when you have been diagnosed, and while you're receiving treatment.
Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) (England)	All hospitals in England have access to PALS. They are there to help with any queries you have. They can also help if you would like to make a complaint about your treatment and care.
Social services (contact your local council)	Help at home (such as shopping or cleaning), intensive home care and specialist equipment.