Questions To Ask Your Doctor About Your Cancer Treatment Prognosis

General Questions

• What is the goal of treatment? Is it directly treating the cancer or improving the symptoms, or both?
• How long does the average person with this cancer live? (Ask for a range, likely scenarios)
• How will I feel?
• What is my likelihood of a cure?
• If I cannot be cured, will I live longer with treatment? How much longer?
• Will I feel better or worse?
• Can I receive palliative care focused on maintaining the quality of my and my family’s life during my cancer treatment?
• What options do I have if I don’t want to continue my cancer treatment?
• When should I think about hospice? Can I meet with hospice now, when I am well?

Treatment

• What are my treatment options?
• Why do I need this treatment?
• How does this treatment compare with other treatment options?
• Am I healthy enough to undergo the treatment?
• What are the risks and benefits of treatment?
• What are the side effects of the treatment?
• Will treatment make me feel better or worse?
• What is the cost of the treatment?
• Are there clinical trials available?
  o What are potential benefits of clinical trials?
  o Am I eligible to participate?
  o How do I enroll?
• Which hospital is best for my needs?

Vassar Brothers Medical Center
Dyson Center For Cancer Care
45 Reade Place
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

healthquest.org/cancer
Questions To Ask Your Doctor About Your Cancer Treatment Prognosis

Advance Care Planning

- Are there things I should be doing to plan ahead?
  - Fill out a MOLST form (we can help with this).
  - Choose a health care proxy (and alternate) who can speak for me if I am unable.
  - Address financial or family legal issues.
  - Appoint a durable power of attorney for financial affairs.
  - Write notes or create DVDs for loved ones.

Psychosocial/Other

Who is available to help me cope with this situation?

- Are there financial counselors available?
- I’m worried about paying for all this — are there any types of assistance plans available?

Vassar Brothers Medical Center
Dyson Center For Cancer Care
45 Reade Place
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

healthquest.org/cancer