

# Chemotherapy Questions to Ask Your Doctor

## Chemotherapy can be used to:

- Destroy cancer cells
- Stop cancer cells from spreading
- Slow the growth of cancer cells

Chemotherapy can be given alone or with other treatments. It can help other treatments work better. For example, you may get chemotherapy before or after surgery or radiation therapy. Or you may get chemotherapy before a peripheral blood stem cell transplant.

*Fill in each section with your doctor or nurse.*

**I am getting chemo to:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check with your doctor or nurse before you take any medicine, vitamins, or herbs. Some of these can change the way chemotherapy works.

## How is chemotherapy given?

There are many different kinds of chemotherapy, and it can be given in these forms:

- An IV (intravenously)
- A shot (injection) into a muscle or other part of your body
- A pill or a liquid that you swallow
- A cream that is rubbed on your skin
- Other ways: \_\_\_\_\_

**This is how I will get chemo:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Continued on reverse →*

## When will I get chemotherapy?

You may get treatment every day, every week, or every month. The treatment period is followed by a period of rest when you won't get chemotherapy. This rest period gives your body a chance to build healthy new cells.

Your doctor or nurse will talk with you about your treatment schedule. Ask for a written copy of it, as well.

**My chemo treatment schedule:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## How will I feel during treatment?

Each person and treatment is different, so it is not always possible to tell how you will feel. Some people feel well enough to keep their normal schedules at home or at work. Others feel more tired.

Today many side effects can be prevented or controlled. Talk with your doctor or nurse to learn what side effects you may have and how to manage them.

**Side effects I might have and ways to manage them:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Can you tell me more about clinical trials?

Cancer treatment clinical trials test new treatments to find better ways to treat cancer. By being in a clinical trial, you can try a new treatment that may, or may not, be better than the treatment already being given. Clinical trials are a treatment option for many people with cancer.

### Who can I talk with to learn more?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## If you have more questions:

It's normal to have a lot of questions. Write some down here to help you remember them when you talk with your doctor or nurse.

**Write your questions here:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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