Important Questions For Making Treatment Decisions

• Is the goal of this 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 a standard treatment or experimental? What are the chances for success in my particular case?

• How and when will I know it’s working?

• How will this 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 under my insurance? What will the cost be to me?

• 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 doctor?

• Is there 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?

• Are there other ways to manage my disease and would you recommend them? Why or why not?

Although medicine doesn’t have a crystal ball to know how you are going to respond to a particular treatment, it is important that you have enough information so you can make a decision. Consider your lifestyle, your beliefs, your goals and values. Consider your family, finances and spiritual beliefs. You always have the right to know and to choose.

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