

Questions you may like to ask the doctor or health worker



If you are caring for someone who is very sick and may not get better, you may have questions about how to look after them.



Below are some common questions that families may have when caring for someone who is very sick. You can use these questions when talking to the doctor or health worker and add your own questions at the end.

Questions related to the person you are caring for

1. What symptoms are they likely to have? What do these look like?
2. Will they be in pain? What can I do to help manage the pain?
3. Is there anything important that I need to talk about with them? (such as legal or family business that may need handed over)
4. Can I continue to use traditional medicines?

Questions about care

1. What sort of care will they need? Is their care going to change as time goes on?
2. What services can assist me to provide care? Is palliative care an option?
3. Consider where the person who is sick wants to be cared for and also ask about what places might be a good option for the person to be cared for (including in the hospital, at home, on country or somewhere else?)
4. Will I need any special equipment and where do I get it?

Questions about who to call

1. Who should I talk to if things are not going well?
2. Who should I call if it is after hours or on the weekend and I need help?
3. Who can I call in an emergency?

Questions about your own well-being

1. How might caring impact on me?
2. Do I need to be available full time to care?
3. Who can I call if I feel distressed or I can't manage?
4. Can I get a carer payment or other financial assistance?

Additional questions

You might have other questions. You might like to ask about specific symptoms, medicines, diet, or personal concerns about your relationships, job or finances.



