

# Delivering High-Quality Cancer Care

## Questions for Patients with Cancer to Ask Their Care Team

### Questions About Prognosis

- What is the goal of treatment? Is it directly treating the cancer or improving my symptoms, or both?
- What is my life expectancy? (ask for a window and the most likely scenario)
- 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 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?
- How often should we check in about my care plan?

### Questions About Advance Care Planning

- Are there things I should be doing to plan ahead?
  - Draft a will?
  - Participate in advance care planning and decide on my advance directives?
  - Choose a healthcare proxy 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?

### Questions About Treatment

- What are my treatment options?
- Why do I need this treatment?
- How does this treatment compare with other treatment options?
- What things are the likely to happen to me?
- Am I healthy enough to undergo the treatment?
- What are the risks and benefits of treatment?
- Are there any side effects?
- Will treatment make me feel better or worse?
- How many times have you done this procedure?
- What is the cost of this treatment?
- What clinical trials are available?
  - What are the potential benefits of clinical trials?
  - Am I eligible to participate?
  - How do I enroll?
- Which hospital is best for my needs?
- Which clinician(s) will coordinate my care?
- How do you spell the name of that drug?
- Will this medicine interact with medicines that I'm already taking?

### Questions About Family, Psychosocial, and Spiritual Needs

- Will you help me talk with my children?
- Who is available to help me cope with this situation?



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Addressing the Challenges of an Aging Population**

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