

Questions for Your Doctor When Facing a Life-Threatening Illness

Each of us has the right to make important decisions about the kind of care we would or would not want at the end of life. Having meaningful conversations with your doctor is an important part of making these informed decisions. You might start the conversation by saying something like,

“I’m learning how important clear communication is at the end of life, so I’d like to start a conversation now that will help me prepare for that time, no matter when it might come.”

Possible Questions to Ask Your Doctor:

- Will you be honest with me as my illness progresses?
- Will you tell me all my treatment options, regardless of your own personal preferences?
- Will you honor my end-of-life healthcare choices and help me achieve my goals?
- Will you tell me sooner rather than later when it’s time to involve hospice?
- How will you care for me when I am dying?
- How will you care for my family when I am dying?

It’s never too early to have this conversation with your doctor—no matter how old you are, or what health issues you may or may not have. Starting the conversation now can deepen the connection with your doctor and help pave the way for the best possible care at the end of life.

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