

Question checklist for prostate cancer

Asking your doctor questions will help you make an informed choice. You may want to include some of the questions below in your own list.

Diagnosis

- What type of prostate cancer do I have?
 - Has the cancer spread? If so, where has it spread? What is the grade?
 - Are the latest tests and treatments for this cancer available in this hospital?
 - Will a multidisciplinary team be involved in my care?
 - Are there clinical guidelines for this type of cancer?
-

Treatment

- What treatment do you recommend? What is the aim of the treatment?
 - Have you treated a lot of people with my type of cancer?
 - Are there other treatment choices for me? If not, why not?
 - If I don't have the treatment, what should I expect?
 - How long do I have to make a decision?
 - I'm thinking of getting a second opinion. Can you recommend anyone?
 - How long will treatment take? Will I have to stay in hospital?
 - Are there any out-of-pocket expenses not covered by Medicare or my private health cover? Can the cost be reduced if I can't afford it? Can I be treated in the public system?
 - How will we know if the treatment is working?
 - Are there any clinical trials or research studies I could join?
-

Side effects and follow-up

- What are the risks and possible side effects of each treatment? How can these be managed?
 - If I have problems with continence, what can I do to manage this?
 - Will the treatment affect my sex life and erections? What can be done about this? Which health professionals should I see?
 - Will I still be able to have children? Should I see a fertility specialist?
 - Are there any complementary therapies that might help me?
 - How often will I need check-ups after treatment?
 - If the cancer returns, how will I know? What treatments could I have?
-

My questions
