

Talking about cancer

What questions should I ask?

When you find out you have cancer, you might feel shocked and scared. It can be hard to think of what you want to ask your doctor or nurse when everything is happening so fast.



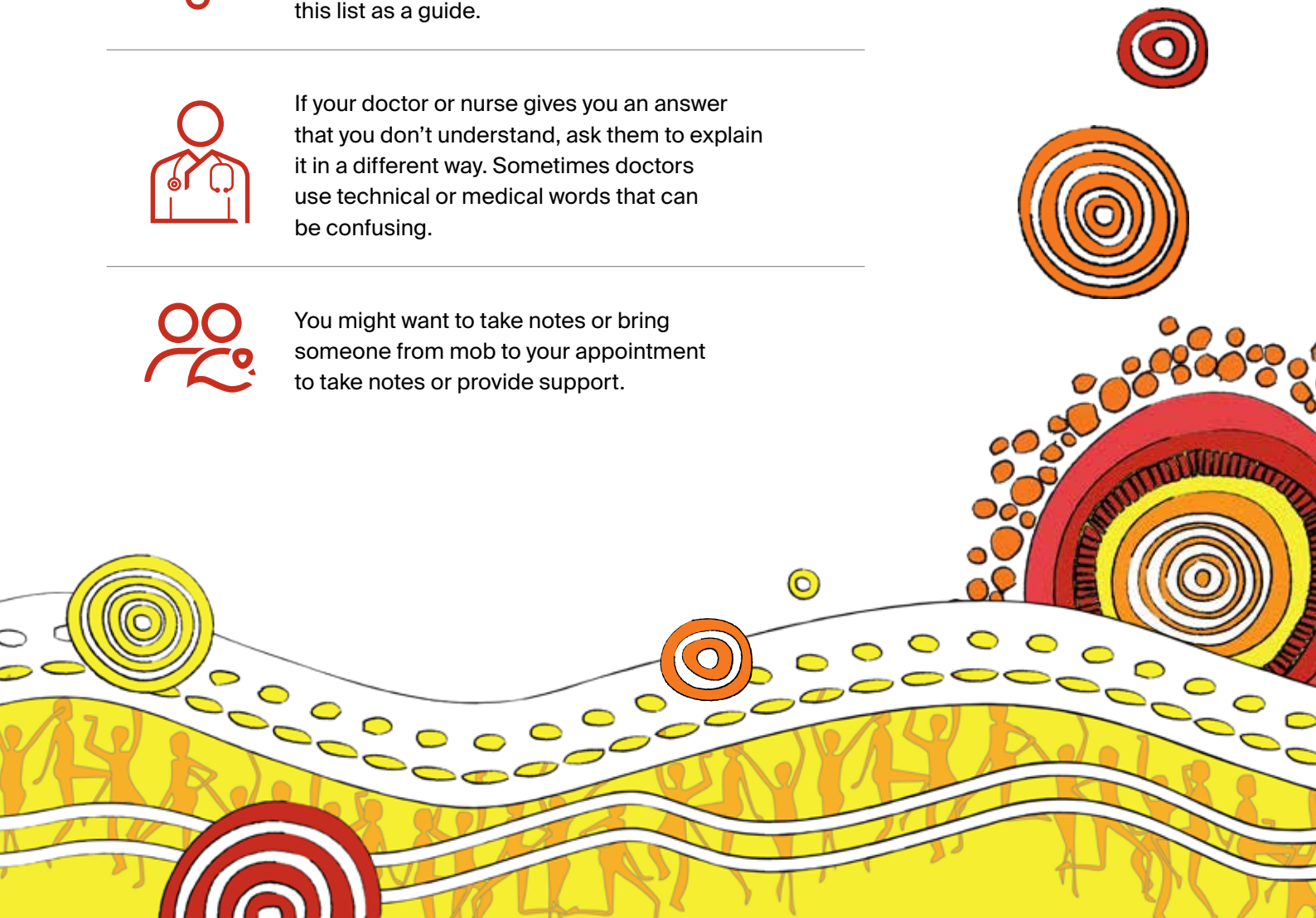
You might want to ask your doctor or nurse the questions on the next page. You don't have to ask all of the questions – just use this list as a guide.



If your doctor or nurse gives you an answer that you don't understand, ask them to explain it in a different way. Sometimes doctors use technical or medical words that can be confusing.




You might want to take notes or bring someone from mob to your appointment to take notes or provide support.





Questions to ask your doctor or nurse

- What kind of cancer do I have?
- Has it spread?
- Can you tell me more about cancer?
- What are the treatments?
- What are the risks of each treatment?
- What are the side effects of treatment?
- What kind of treatment do you think I should have? Why?
- What will happen if I don't have treatment?
- Where will I have treatment? Will I have to stay in hospital?
- How much will treatment cost?
- Are there any new treatments (clinical trials) I can try?
- When do I have to come in to see you for a check-up?
- Is there an Aboriginal hospital liaison officer or social worker who can talk to me about how cancer will affect my life and my mob?
- Can you help me talk to mob about cancer?
- Is it okay to use other remedies, like bush medicine?



If you don't understand, ask again.

More information

- **Cancer Council**
13 11 20
cancercouncil.com.au
- **Your local Aboriginal Health Service**

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Cancer Council NSW acknowledges Traditional Custodians of Country and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.