

Questions For Caregivers to Ask Their Loved Ones

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Communicating openly with your newly diagnosed loved one may help you both feel a greater sense of control. This is usually a process that takes time and practice. The following questions may help you to have conversations that lead to better understanding.

Date _____

Talking to the Doctor

1. Before going to your doctor's appointment, would you feel more comfortable if we develop a list of questions together in advance?

2. Would you prefer to ask the doctor questions while I take notes or record what the doctor says? Or, would you like me to ask some or all of the questions and help make sure that we understand the answers?

3. Do you want a lot of information about your diagnosis and its treatment or do you want to go with a "need to know" approach?

At Home

1. Would you prefer to continue handling paperwork, bills, meals, dishes, etc.?

2. What is a good way to stay in touch with each other about how you feel? Then, if there are any changes, we can figure out what to do.

3. What are good ways to keep the lines of communication open?

4. Can you let me know when you need space or begin to feel overwhelmed?

Finances

1. Can I assist by helping to take care of your finances?

2. Would it be a good idea to share information about your bank, credit and investment accounts with me so we each have a record?

3. Can I assist you with managing your expenses?

4. Do you want me to add my name to your checks to make paying bills easier? If so, do you want me to tell you when each payment is made or keep you informed on a monthly or weekly basis?

Medical Insurance

1. Do you think I can help with handling insurance claims and questions?

2. Do you think it would be a good idea for both of us to have a record of your insurance plan(s)?

3. Should we call the insurance company to make sure I can have access to your information if there is a claim problem?

Wills/HealthCare Proxy

1. Do you need any assistance with updating your will/ power of attorney/living will/health care proxy?

Notes

To print additional copies of this question guide, or to print copies of question guides on other topics, go to www.lls.org/whattoask. You may also request that copies be sent to you by contacting an Information Specialist at (800) 955-4572.