



It's Better to Ask


Questions to Ask your Doctor about Medical Tests


Medical tests are often needed to assist your doctor in evaluating your health and determining the proper treatment plan for you. These questions are designed to help you feel comfortable with the tests your doctor is recommending and allow you to examine any alternatives, cost considerations and anticipated results you may need to consider.


Below are some questions you may ask your doctor if you don't already know the answers.


-  **What is the name of the test(s)?**


-  **Why is this test needed and what will the results tell me? Do you have any brochures or information that I can review further or share with my family?**


-  **What might happen if the test is not done? Can it be done later?**


-  **Will the results change my treatment plan and how?**


-  **How accurate is this test in providing the results you need to evaluate my health? Might another test be more accurate?**


-  **Are there any risks associated with this test? If so, are there any less risky options?**


-  **How expensive is this test? Are there less costly, alternative tests that can be performed to get the answers needed?**


-  **Will my health plan cover this test? If not, why not? Plan participants should check their plan document for coverage information as well.**


-  **If my health plan requires pre-certification for this test will you help handle that for me?**

-  **Where would you recommend this test be done? Are there other less costly facilities where I can have this test done?**

-  **What should I do to prepare for this test? Will food, beverages, medication, alcohol, smoking, exercise, etc. affect the results?**

-  **How much time should I anticipate the test taking?**

-  **When should I anticipate the results will be available? Will your office follow-up with me?**

-  **Once we receive these results what might the next steps be? Will that include additional tests, procedures or appointments?**

“Smarter is Better”

As a health care consumer you have the right to examine your health care options. After all, it is your money and your health. Discuss all of your options with you so that you can make an informed decision.

**This information is not intended to replace the advice of a physician. Check your health plan for specific coverages.*