

Questions & Responses During Shared Decision Making



At the end of the visit, your doctor will provide a plan of care for you. This may include treatment options, medication, further testing, or recommended changes to lifestyle. When the doctor leaves the room, it will be your responsibility to follow through on the plan of care they provide. **You have the right to make sure the plan works for you and that you fully understand it.**

Here are some responses and clarifying questions you can use when having the conversation at the end of your visit.

- “This plan works for me; can I repeat back what you told me to make sure I have it right?”
 - Write down the next steps or ask for a visit summary with instructions to be printed off for you before you leave.
 - Repeat back the plan.
- “I don’t understand.”
- “Why are we doing this?”
- “What is this medication for?”
 - “Why are you prescribing this medication?”
- “Why is the test being done?”
 - “What steps does the test involve? How should I get ready?”
- “Are there any dangers or side effects?”
- “How will I find out the results?” “How long will it take to get the results?”
- Not ready to decide or commit to a plan? “Can this wait?”
- “If I have questions or concerns after I leave, who should I contact?” “What is the best way to get in touch with your office?”
- Discuss financial concerns.
- Recognize your emotions (scared, annoyed, confused) Share it!
 - “I am feeling anxious about this plan, should I be worried?”
 - “My real fear is ‘X.’ How concerned should I be?”
- “What preventative care services are right for me?”
- “Where can I find reliable and trustworthy medical information online?”
- “How does my family history affect my risk for certain conditions?”
- “How many patients with my condition have you treated?”
- “When should I come see you again?”
- “Who can help me manage my condition between visits?”
- Ask questions when you don’t know the meaning of a word.
- Anything else you may think of. There is no such thing as a bad question!