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Good Questions for Getting the Right Diagnosis

Part of the Ask Me 3 Patient Safety Series

When you talk with a health care provider, use these **Ask Me 3** questions to help get the right diagnosis

Write the answers here:

1. What could be causing my problem?

2. What else could it be?

3. When will I get my test results, and what should I do to follow up?

When to Ask Questions

You can ask questions when:

- You see a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider
- You prepare for a medical test or procedure
- You are admitted to the hospital
- You are in the emergency room
- You visit a physician office or health care clinic

What If I Ask and Still Don't Understand?

- Let your health care provider know if you still don't understand what you need to do.
- You might say, "This is new to me. Will you please explain that to me one more time?"

Who Needs to Ask 3?

Everyone wants help with health information. You are not alone if you find things confusing at times. Asking questions helps you understand how to stay well or to get better.



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Good Questions for Your Good Health

Asking questions can help you be an active member of your health care team. Use the Ask Me 3 questions every time you talk with a health care provider.

Write the answers here:

1. What is my main problem?

2. What do I need to do?

3. Why is it important for me to do this?

Asking questions can help me:

- Take care of my health
- Prepare for medical tests
- Take my medicines the right way

I don't need to feel rushed or embarrassed if I don't understand something. I can ask my doctor again.

When I Ask 3, I am prepared. I know what to do for my health.



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Ask Me 3® is an educational program provided by the National Patient Safety Foundation to encourage open communication between patients and health care providers.

To learn more about Ask Me 3 visit www.npsf.org/askme3.