

## Questions about health problems

- What is the name of the condition?
- Is it known by any other names?
- Could you write it down?
- How serious is this condition?
- How long will it last?
- What causes it?
- Can I pass it on to other people?
- Is it likely to get worse? Or is it likely to get better?
- Do I need treatment? If so, what is it?
- Do I need to see any other health professionals, such as specialists, physiotherapists, dietitians or dentists?
- Is there anything I can do to improve it myself?
- Are there support groups for people with this problem and how can I contact them?
- Where can I get more information about this condition?

## Questions about treatments

- How effective is this treatment?
- Is it likely to be successful for people like me?
- What is the evidence for this treatment?
- Is the treatment approved?
- Are there any risks or side effects? Are side effects likely to be permanent?
- How long will I need the treatment for?
- Do I really need this treatment or implant?
- Will the implant or device be permanent?
- Are there other ways to treat my condition?
- What happens if I don't do anything?
- Is there a clinical trial that I can go on?
- How quickly do I have to start the treatment? Is it OK if I take some time to decide?
- How much will the treatment cost?
- Can I have a written estimate?
- Will I have out of pocket costs, how much?
- How long will I have to make the payments?
- Will the cost be covered by Medicare, my concession or Veterans Affairs card or by private health insurance?

## Questions about medicines

- Why do I need this medicine?
- What is the evidence for this medicine?
- How long do I need to take this medicine?
- Does the medicine have side effects?
- What should I do if I experience side effects?
- Are there any other medicines that I can take instead?
- What will happen if I don't take the medicine — will my health get worse?
- When should I take this medicine — should I take it with food or drink?
- Will it interact with any other medicines I take, including any vitamins, herbal medicine or other complementary medicine?
- Can I drink alcohol while I'm taking this medicine?
- Does the medicine need to be stored in the fridge?
- If the pharmacist offers me a different brand of the same medicine (a generic medicine), is it ok to take it?
- What should I do if I miss my regular dose?
- Can I take this medicine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?
- Can it affect my ability to have children?
- How much will it cost? Will the cost be covered by the PBS, my concession or Veterans Affairs card or by private health insurance?

## Questions about tests

- What is the test for?
- How is the test done?
- How often do I need to have the test?
- What are the benefits and risks of having the test?
- Are there any alternative tests?
- How accurate are the results of the test?
- What does an abnormal result mean?
- What do I need to do before the test? Do I need to fast?
- Can this test diagnose a problem or will I need further testing?
- How much will the test cost?
- Is it covered by Medicare, my concession or Veterans Affairs card or my private health insurance?
- Will the test hurt, or take a long time?
- How soon do I need to have the test?
- How do I book in to have the test and what is the usual waiting period?
- When and how will I get the results?
- What is likely to happen next, after I have the test?
- What happens if I don't get this test?