Are you choosing a hospital?

Ask:

☐ Which hospital has the best care for my condition?

☐ Is this hospital covered by my health insurance?

☐ Does the hospital meet national quality standards?

☐ How does the hospital compare with others in my area?

☐ Has the hospital had success with my condition?

☐ Does my clinician have privileges (is allowed to work) at this hospital?

☐ How well does the hospital check and improve on its own quality of care?

Are you choosing long-term care?

Ask:

☐ What kind of services do I need?

☐ What are my care options?

☐ Will my health insurance cover long-term care?

☐ Will this facility meet my needs?

☐ How is this care facility rated?

Be Prepared for Medical Appointments

Build Your Question List

Did your clinician give you a prescription?

Ask:

☐ What is the name of the medicine?

☐ How do you spell the name?

☐ Can I take a generic version of this medicine?

☐ What is the medicine for?

☐ How am I supposed to take it?

☐ When should I take my medicine?

☐ How much medicine should I take?

☐ How long do I need to take the medicine?

☐ When will the medicine start working?

☐ Can I stop taking my medicine if I feel better?

☐ Can I get a refill?

☐ Are there any side effects?

☐ When should I tell someone about a side effect?

☐ Do I need to avoid any food, drinks, or activities?

☐ Does this new prescription mean I should stop taking any other medicines I’m taking now?

☐ Can I take vitamins with my prescription?

☐ What should I do if I forget to take my medicine?

☐ What should I do if I accidentally take more than the recommended dose?

☐ Is there any written information I can take home with me?

☐ Are there any tests I need to take while I’m on this medicine?

Are you scheduled to have medical tests?

Ask:

☐ What is the test for?

☐ How is the test done?

☐ Will the test hurt?

☐ How accurate is the test?

☐ Is this test the only way to find out that information?

☐ What are the benefits and risks of having this test?

☐ What do I need to do to prepare for the test?

☐ How many times have you performed the test?
Ask:
Did you recently receive a diagnosis?

Ask:
Are you considering treatment for an illness or condition?

Ask:
Did your clinician recently recommend surgery?

Ask:
Are you choosing a health plan?

Ask:
Are you choosing a clinician?

For more information, go to: www.ahrq.gov/questionsaretheanswer