

# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE TAKING CANCER MEDICATIONS

The medications you take to treat your cancer are not simple. Your treatment may include medications that are given in an infusion center, taken at home, or a combination of both. It is important to follow instructions to get the best results. Your oncology pharmacist, doctor, nurse, and other providers can give you information about your cancer medications and help answer your questions.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN TAKING THESE MEDICINES



... you may want to ask your oncology pharmacist these questions:

- What are the names of all the medications I am going to take to treat my cancer, and how are they given?
- What kind of side effects should I expect with my cancer treatment? When do these side effects typically occur (immediately or delayed) Are these side effects reversible?
- What other medicines or strategies can I use to help lessen side effects?
- What blood work or tests are needed, and how often, during treatment?
- What should I do if I think my cancer treatment is causing me to feel unwell? When should I call my provider?
- Can these medications affect my ability to have children in the future and are there any precautions I should take before taking these medications?
- What precautions should be taken during sexual activity to prevent medication exposure to my partner? Could this medication affect my ability to have sex?
- Should I get any vaccines before I start my cancer treatment or while I am on treatment?
- What drugs, herbals, supplements, or over the counter products could interact with my cancer treatment?
- Should I make changes to the foods I eat or the timing of my meals while I am taking my cancer medicine?
- Are there any restrictions to driving or other daily activities?
- Should I avoid being around other people? For how long?
- Is there someone I can talk to if I am worried about how much my cancer medicines cost?
- Where can I learn more about my cancer medications?

## IF YOU RECEIVE YOUR MEDICINES AT AN INFUSION CENTER



... rather than at home, you may want to ask your oncology pharmacist these questions:

- How long will each treatment take? How frequently will I return to the infusion center during treatment?
- Will I be able to drive myself or should I arrange to have a driver bring me?
- What should I bring with me to the infusion center on the day of my treatment?
- Am I able to have a visitor sit with me during my infusion? If so, is there a limit to the number of visitors I can have?
- How will my medications be given to me?
- Are there any medications to be taken at home before or after treatment? Are there any additional supportive care medications needed alongside this therapy?

## FOR MEDICATIONS YOU TAKE AT HOME



... you may want to ask these questions:

- Where will I get my cancer medicine from (in-person pharmacy or a mail-order pharmacy)?
- Should my medicine be taken with or without food?
- Is there a best time to take my medicine?
- What should I do if I miss a dose of my cancer medicine?
- What if I have trouble remembering to take my medications?
- What should I do if I vomit after taking my cancer medicine?
- Who should I contact if I need a refill of my cancer medicine? When should I reach out to my team for refills?
- Where should I store my cancer medicine at home, and do I need to treat it in a special way?
- What should I do if I have pills left over after I finish my treatment?
- What timing schedule is this medication taken on?