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

1. What could be causing my problem?

2. What else could be it?

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

Write the answers here:

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.