

ASKING QUESTIONS CAN HELP

FOR PEOPLE WHEN APPROACHING THE LAST DAYS OF LIFE

Often, people feel overwhelmed when they are told they are dying. They are unable to think clearly and find it hard to ask questions.

The purpose of this question list is to help you to get the information you want about your illness and treatment options.

The questions have been divided under headings. You may find that not all questions under each of the headings are relevant and there may be some that you may not want to talk about without your family or carer present. Look at the headings first and then decide whether the questions under each heading are appropriate to your situation.

Questions that patients may consider and like to ask their medical team when approaching last days of life

Where is it best for me to be cared for? Could I go home?

Is it feasible for me to die at home rather than in the hospital?

Will I be moved to a different place? (Different room, or ward or hospital?)

Is there a palliative care unit at or near this hospital?

How do I tell others about what is happening to me?

Notes:

What to expect

What can I expect in the last days of my life?

What care will I receive over the coming days?

What symptoms will I likely experience?

Will you be able to tell me when it is getting close to the time I will die?

What happens if I go into a coma?

Notes:

Communication

Is there anyone I can speak to about my spiritual or religious needs?

How do I communicate my wishes to the healthcare team? (so I don't have to keep repeating myself)

What are the times of ward rounds by doctors?

Can I access an interpreter to speak to my family?

Notes:
