

Every time you talk with a health care provider

ASK THESE 3 QUESTIONS

1

**What is
my main
problem?**

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 get your medication.

2

**What do
I need
to do?**

What if I ask and still don't understand?

- Let your health care provider know if you still don't understand what you need.
- You might say, "This is new to me. Will you please explain that to me one more time?"
- Don't feel rushed or embarrassed if you don't understand something. Ask your health care provider again.

3

**Why is it
important
for me to
do this?**

Who needs to ask 3?

Everyone wants help with health information. You are not alone if you find information about your health or care confusing at times. Asking questions helps you understand how to stay well or to get better.

Write your health care provider's answers to the 3 questions here:

1. What is my main problem?

2. What do I need to do?

3. Why is it important for me to do this?

Asking these questions can help you:

- ☒ Take care of your health
- ☒ Prepare for medical tests
- ☒ Take your medications the right way

You don't need to feel rushed or embarrassed if you don't understand something. You can ask your health care provider again.

When you Ask 3, you are prepared. You know what to do for your health.

Your providers *want* to answer 3

Are you nervous to ask your provider questions? Don't be. You may be surprised to learn that your medical team wants you to let them know that you need help or more information.

Like all of us, health care providers have busy schedules. Yet they want you to know:

- All you can about your health or condition.
- Why their instructions are important for your health.
- Steps to take to keep you healthy and any conditions under control.

Bring your medications with you the next time you visit a health care provider. Or, write the names of the medications you take on the lines below.

Like many people, you may see more than one health care provider. It is important that they all know about all of the medications you are taking so that you can stay healthy.

Ask Me 3® is an educational program provided by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement / National Patient Safety Foundation to encourage open communication between patients and health care providers.