About Your Symptoms or Diagnosis

• What is the disease or condition?
• How serious is my disease or condition and how will it affect my home and work life?
• What is the short-term and long-term prognosis for my disease or condition?
• What caused the disease or condition?
• Is there more than one disease or condition that could be causing my symptoms?
• Should I be tested for a certain disease or condition?
• What symptoms should I watch for?
• How can I be tested for a disease or condition, and what will these tests tell me?
• What tests will be involved in diagnosing my disease or condition?
• How safe and accurate are the tests?
• When will I know the test’s results?
• Will I need more medical tests?
• Do I need a follow-up visit and if so, when?
• Do I need to take precautions to avoid infecting others?
• How is the disease or condition treated?

Treatment

• The reason for the clinical trial (what the doctors hope to learn)
• Who is eligible to take part in the clinical trial
• What is known about the type of treatment being studied
• Possible risks and benefits (based on what is known so far)
• Other treatments that may be options

Tests

• Types of tests
• How often you would need tests and meet with the doctor

About Your Treatment

• What are my treatment options?
• How long will the treatment take?
• What is the cost of the treatment?
• Which treatment is most common for my disease or condition?
• Is there a generic form of my treatment and is it as effective?
• What side effects can I expect?
• What risks and benefits are associated with the treatment?
• What would happen if I didn’t have any treatment?
• What would happen if I delay my treatment?
• Is there anything I should avoid during treatment?
• What should I do if I have side effects?
• How will I know if the medication is working?
• What would I do if I miss a dose of medication?
• Will my job or lifestyle be affected?
• What is my short-term and long-term prognosis?

If You Need Surgery

• Why do I need surgery?
• What surgical procedure are you recommending?
• Is there more than one way of performing this surgery?
• Are there alternatives to surgery?
• How much will surgery cost?
• What are the benefits of having surgery?
• What are the risks of having surgery?
• What if I don’t have this surgery?
• Where can I get a second opinion?
• What kind of anesthesia will I need?
• How long will it take me to recover?
• What are your qualifications?
• How much experience do you have performing this surgery?
• How long will I be in the hospital