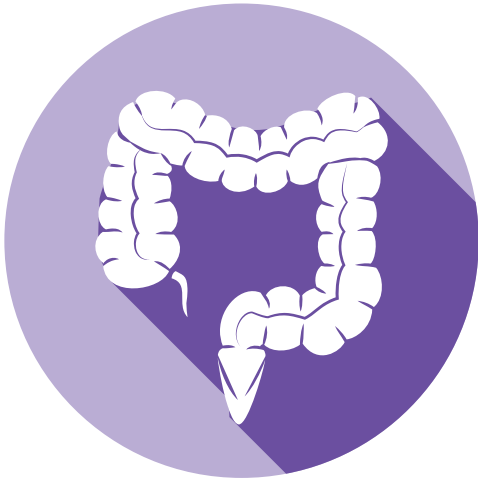


# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT COLORECTAL CANCER

It's important to have honest, open discussions with your cancer care team. They want to answer all your questions, to enable you make informed treatment and life decisions. Some of the questions that may be included in a question checklist are listed below.



## WHEN INFORMED OF A COLORECTAL CANCER DIAGNOSIS:

Where is the cancer located?

Has the cancer spread? If so, where has it spread? How fast is it growing?

Will I need other tests before a decision is made on treatment?

Do I need to consult other doctors or health professionals?



## WHEN DECIDING ON A TREATMENT PLAN

- What are my treatment options?
- What do you recommend and why?
- If surgery is part of my treatment, will I need a stoma? If so, will it be temporary or permanent? Who will teach me how to care for it?
- Should I get a second opinion? How do I do that? Can you recommend someone?
- How long will treatment last? Will I have to stay in hospital?
- How might treatment affect my daily activities? Can I still work full time?
- What are the chances that I can be cured of this cancer with these treatment options?
- What would my options be if the treatment doesn't work or if the cancer comes back after treatment?



## DURING TREATMENT

- How will I know if the treatment is working?
- What are the risks and side effects of each treatment?
- What symptoms or side effects should I immediately inform you of?
- Can I work, drive and carry on with my normal activities while having treatment?
- How can I contact you on nights, holidays, or weekends if there is a need to?
- Can you suggest a mental health professional I can see if I start to feel overwhelmed, depressed, or distressed?



## AFTER TREATMENT

- How often will I need check-ups after treatment?
- If the cancer returns, how will I know? What treatments could I have?
- What symptoms should I watch for?