



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

What Questions Should I Ask?

The ICU is a very busy and noisy place. There are many alarms and devices which make sounds. If you understand the equipment you may feel less stress. Please ask us if there is something that you do not understand. We also have many teaching sheets written for families of patients. Let us know what you need. We're here to help.

Questions you may have for the doctor

- What is wrong with my loved one?
- What is the treatment and are there any risks?
- How will this affect their quality of life?
- Is there any pain and what can be done for the pain?
- How is nutrition provided?
- What about the medicines they took at home?
- What is meant by “doing everything”?
- If the condition looks not curable and recovery is not likely, what can be done for comfort?

Questions you may have for the nurse

- What should I say to my loved one?
- Who are the doctors caring for my loved one and which doctor is in charge?
- Is there any pain or any fear?

- What can be done for the pain or the fear?
- What is the plan for today?
- Can you explain to me what the doctor said?
- Can you explain to me the lines, tubes, and machines?
- How long will these lines and tubes be in?
- How does my loved one go to the bathroom?
- What can I do to help?
- Who can visit and when?
- How will you get in touch with me if something happens?
- Where can I get more information about what is wrong?

Other questions

- What should I say to my loved one?
- How long should I visit?
- Can I touch my loved one?
- Should I bring anything in from home?
- What should I tell friends and family?
- Is there a chapel or private place to pray?
- Can I speak with a hospital chaplain?
- Can someone help me with my financial questions?
- Can someone help me with other problems?