

WORKSHEET 6

QUESTIONS FOR THE HEALTHCARE TEAM

Asking the members of the healthcare team questions helps you take an active role in managing your child's care. If you do not understand any part of the information the healthcare provider gives you, ask him or her to explain it in another way.

Diagnosis and Testing

What is my child's exact diagnosis, including subtype?

What is the prognosis?

Are there any additional tests, including genetic testing, that my child needs?

What kind of testing will be done to monitor the disease and its treatment? How often will the testing be needed?

Treatment

What are the goals of treatment?

What are all of the available treatment options?

Is my child eligible to participate in a clinical trial?

What is the recommended treatment? What are the benefits and risks?

How long will treatment last?

How much time do I have to make a decision about the treatment plan?

Will my child be in the hospital or be at an outpatient treatment center for treatment?

What signs and/or symptoms indicate that I should call the healthcare team?

What signs and/or symptoms indicate a trip to the emergency room is necessary?

Will my child's fertility or sexual health be affected by treatment? What can be done to preserve my child's fertility?

How will we know if my child's treatment is effective? What options are available if treatment is not effective?

Side Effects

What are the side effects of treatment? What are the long-term and late effects of treatment?

Whom can I contact after hours with questions or concerns?

How will treatment affect my child's physical and mental growth and development?

Can you refer us to palliative care for help managing side effects?

Will my child need to follow a special diet or avoid any specific foods?

Social/Financial Concerns

What kind of financial and social support services are available for my family?

Who is the best person to speak to about bills and insurance coverage?

Will my child be able to attend school during treatment? What can be done to help continue my child's education during treatment?

Can we be referred to a child-life specialist or social worker for help with practical and social issues?

Are there local support groups available for my child and/or my family?

Are there resources for my other children to help them cope with their sibling's diagnosis?

Follow-up Care

Will the healthcare team continue to check on my child after his or her treatment is over? If so, for how long?

What long-term or late effects may my child experience?

If my child experiences late effects, whom can we contact?

Can you provide me with a written follow-up care plan or a survivorship care plan?

Are there resources to help my child return to school?

Are there resources to help my child transition to adult healthcare?
