

QUESTIONS *for* PHYSICIANS WHEN YOU GET A DEMENTIA DIAGNOSIS



I. DIAGNOSIS

1. How did you arrive at this diagnosis?
2. What test(s) did you use to determine this diagnosis?
3. Could any of the symptoms be caused by something other than dementia?

II. UNDERSTANDING

1. What form of dementia do I have?
2. Why do you think it is that form of dementia?
3. What is the progression and average timeline of this form of dementia?
4. What stage am I in now?
5. What can I do to help slow its progression?
6. What symptoms can I expect to see?

III. ACTION

1. Where can I go to learn more about my form of dementia?
2. What resources should I start looking into for future care?
3. What non-medication approaches may be helpful in slowing the progression?
4. What medications may be helpful to slow the progression or treat symptoms?
5. What do these medications specifically treat?

IV. PREPARATION

1. Is it safe to still live at home, continue working, drive, etc.?
2. When do I know that it is time to stop driving, working, or living at home?
3. How will I know that I need the assistance of another person?
4. What physicians or healthcare workers should I be seeing?
5. How often should I see a physician?
6. What symptoms do I need to watch out for?
7. What side effects from medications do I need to watch out for?

V. OTHER

1. What are the chances that my children may also develop this dementia?
(Is it hereditary?)
2. What should I do when others start to notice that I am experiencing some changes?
3. How can I tell others about my diagnosis?

