

Is Someone You Care For Becoming Forgetful?

Questions you may find useful

When you are worried that you or someone you care for may have Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia, it can be difficult to think of all the questions you want to ask when you are with the specialist. It may be the first time you are told of the diagnosis and it can be difficult to think clearly. An opportunity may be lost to get as much information as possible from the specialist. The following are some questions you may consider asking if you are faced with a diagnosis:

If you are caring for someone

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Is it terminal?

How is it assessed?

Are there different stages?

What changes can we expect and when?

What changes do we need to make to our lives?

Should the person be told of the diagnosis? If so, who should tell the person of the diagnosis?

Do I/we tell the children? How do I/we tell the children?

What causes Alzheimer's Disease? Is it hereditary? Is it contagious?

Can the person continue to work?

Are there any safety issues we need to consider?

Will the person be able to continue living on their own (if this is the case)? If not, what are the options? How do we access these options?

Are there any drugs which can be used, when are they most effective and for how long? Are there any side-effects?

Does the person need to come back for a follow-up appointment?

What help is out there? How do we access these support services?

Can the person continue to drive the car? Do we need to tell the insurer of the diagnosis? Does the diagnosis affect the validity of the person's driving licence?

Does the diagnosis affect the person's life assurance policy?

Can the person travel (within Ireland or abroad)?

Is there a special diet that should be followed?

How long can I expect my loved one to live?

Are there any legal or financial issues we need to consider?

How much will the person's private health insurance cover contribute to the cost of their care?

What are the latest developments in relation to research and a cure?

If you are diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia

Why do you think it is Alzheimer's Disease?

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Is it terminal?

Are there different stages?

What changes can I expect?

What causes Alzheimer's Disease? Is it hereditary?

Is it contagious?

How do we tell the children?

What changes do I need to make to my life?

Can I continue to work?

Will I be able to continue living on my own (if this is the case)? If not, what are the options? How do I access these options?

Are there any drugs which can be used, when are they most effective and for how long? Are there any side-effects?

Do I come back for a follow-up appointment?

Who will notify my GP?

What help is out there?

How do I access these support services?

Can I continue to drive the car? Do I need to tell my insurer of the diagnosis? Does my diagnosis affect the validity of my driving licence?

How long can I expect to live?

Does the diagnosis affect my life assurance policy?

Can I travel (within Ireland or abroad)?

Is there a special diet I should follow?

Are there any legal or financial issues I need to consider?

How much will my private health insurance cover contribute to the cost of my care?

What are the latest developments in relation to research and a cure?

Bring a pen and paper to note down information if necessary. It is your right to be fully informed of the diagnosis and to discuss every aspect of the illness in order to make plans for the future. Specialists may use terminology you are unsure of. If you are not clear or do not understand, ask again. Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask questions.