

Questions to ask your health professional

A cancer diagnosis can be an emotional time, full of changes and decisions to make. While some or all of your care may be covered by public healthcare or private health insurance, you may need to pay for some expenses out of your own pocket. These costs can quickly and quietly build up over time, from tests and medicines, to parking and ongoing visits to your health professional. Out-of-pocket costs affect individuals and families differently, so think about the impact this may have and discuss your options with your health professional.

- What are your fees?
- Will I have any out-of-pocket costs? If so, how much?
- Can I have a written estimate? Can this be itemised?
- If the costs change, when will you let me know?
- Can I get this service for free or at a lower cost elsewhere? Are the costs negotiable?
- Can I be treated as/see you as a public patient?
- Are there other treatment options that are as effective, but cost less?
- Do you participate in my private health insurer's gap cover scheme and will you treat me under this arrangement?
- How will I be billed? When will I have to pay?
- Who else or what other services may be involved in my care? Will there be additional fees? If so, how can I get an estimate of their fees and find out more information about this?
- Who can I speak to about my financial situation?
- Are there programs that can provide financial assistance?
- Can I work while having treatment?
- Is telehealth available for any part of my care?

