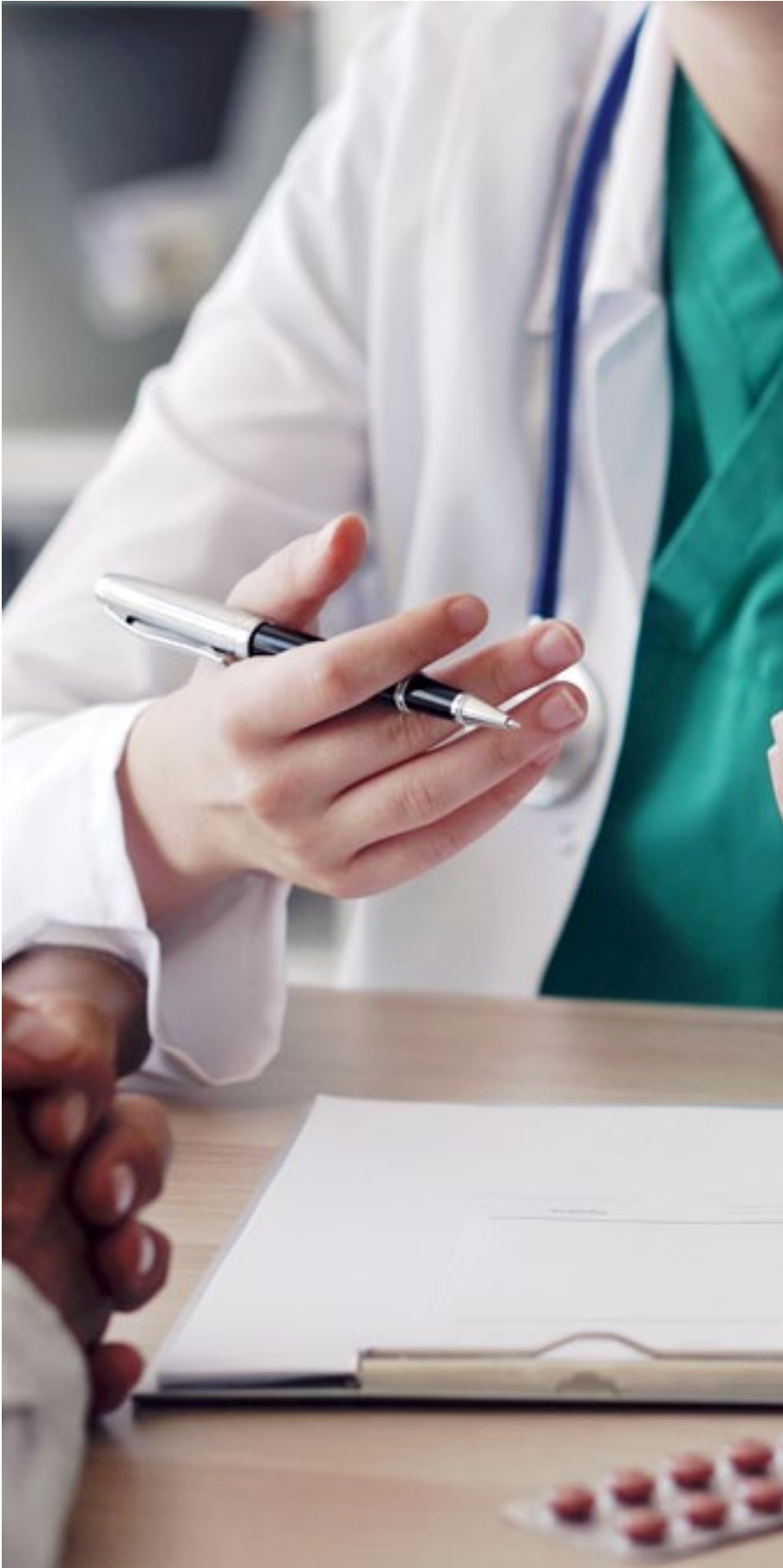


Talking to Your Doctor About Your Diagnosis



Overview

You've just received a diagnosis from your doctor. Maybe it's one you were expecting. Maybe it was a surprise. But now, it's time to focus and get the facts. Here are a few questions you should ask your doctor.

The basics

First, ask your doctor to tell you the name of the condition and why your doctor thinks you have it. Are there some test results you can look at? Is the condition temporary, or is it permanent? Find out if your doctor knows what may have caused your condition.

Next steps

Now, ask about next steps. How can this be treated or managed? How will it affect your life? Some medical conditions can never be cured, but with proper care they can be managed successfully. Find out what you can expect so you can plan for the future.

Learn more

And finally, ask how you can learn more about your condition. You'll need to educate yourself about it so you can take advantage of the medical care and resources that are available. Your doctor can direct you to information you can trust.

Conclusion

Receiving a medical diagnosis can be difficult and stressful for you and for your loved ones. But remember that you're a valuable member of your own care team. By taking an active role in your healthcare, you'll ensure that you receive treatment that's right for you.