

Discussion Guide

What to ask your healthcare provider about your IBD medication.

It is only natural that you will have some questions about the treatment that you (or your child) will be receiving for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). What should you ask your doctor? What do you need to know about your treatment or your child's treatment? The following are some of the questions you may want to ask. Be sure to make them specific to your situation and disease.

1. Medication information

- Why is this medication necessary?
- How long will I need to take this medication?
- How does this medication work?
- Is this medication a biosimilar?
- How will I take this medication (orally, rectally, or through intravenous infusion)?

2. Risks and side effects

- What common side effects can I expect from this medication?
- Is this medication associated with an increased risk of infection or cancer?
- Where can I learn or read more about the risks and side effects of this medication?

3. IBD symptoms versus medication side effects

- How do I know if my symptoms are due to my medication or due to my disease?
- How quickly will symptoms improve with this medication?
- If my symptoms disappear, should I stop taking the medication?
- I am experiencing new symptoms since my last visit. Will this require any changes in my treatment plan?

4. Effectiveness of medication

- How do I know if a medication is working?
- What happens if my medication stops working?
- If I develop new symptoms, does that mean my medication is not working?
- What happens if I don't take my medication when I am supposed to? How could that affect my health?
- Could I possibly develop immunity to my medication? If so, what do I do then?

5. Combination therapy

- Why do I need to take more than one medication for my disease?
- If taking a combination of IBD medications does not work, how can we best adjust my treatment plan?

6. Interactions and other precautions

- What kind of interactions does this IBD medication have with other medications I may be taking for other conditions?
- Can I get vaccines while I am on my IBD medication?
- Can I take vitamins, minerals, herbs, or other supplements while using the medication?
- Is it safe to drink alcohol with this medication?
- Can I take over-the-counter (OTC) medications for joint pain, diarrhea, or abdominal pain?
- Is it safe for me to continue taking my IBD medication if I am pregnant or considering becoming pregnant?
- Is it safe for me to take medication if I am nursing my child?

Financial Assistance for Prescriptions Drugs/ Co-Pays

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation can direct you to patient assistance programs and other resources that you may qualify for to help you cover the costs of your medication.

More information:

 info@crohncolitisfoundation.org

 www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org

 **888-MY-GUT-PAIN**