### Clinician Follow Up Reference for Supportive Care

#### Treatment or Care Concerns—“YES” to I have questions or concerns about my treatment options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start With</th>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Next Step</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asking the patient the below questions</td>
<td>Relay the specific questions or specific lack of understanding in referral or notes for Next Step</td>
<td>Refer to Physician/APN • have a Goals of Care discussion with Patient • See link in References for CSOC Palliative Training Module Goals of Care</td>
<td>Discuss same day if possible Or Routine - within 1 week</td>
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<tr>
<td>What are your questions?</td>
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<td>What would you like to understand better?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Consider a Palliative Care Referral</td>
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<td>Financial Questions</td>
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<td>Refer to Social Worker or Financial Counselor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medication Side Effects, Risks and Benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td>Refer to Physician/APN or Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment Options</td>
<td></td>
<td>Refer to Physician/APN</td>
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### Notes

**Stages I-III:** Use language patients will understand, expect emotion and empathize, and map the future to align with the patient’s goals of care. Plan medical treatments that match patient’s goals.

**Stage IV:** Consider referral to Palliative Care provider when having difficulty understanding or coping with a Stage IV diagnosis.

**Geriatric:** Having a health care proxy and a family member present at all appointments if possible, especially if there are any cognitive issues. Concerns or questions of the primary caregiver are just as important to be addressed if patient has a hard time understanding. Geriatric patients may be more comfortable asking questions of a social worker than an oncologist as compared to a patient of a younger generation. Address polypharmacy and possible reduction of medications for better quality of life.

### Patient Links and Handouts:
- [American Cancer Society, Cancer A-Z](#)
- [American Cancer Society, Treatment & Support](#)
- [Cancer.Net, Managing Your Care](#)
- [Cancer.Net, How Cancer is Treated](#)
- [Cancer.Net, Types of Cancer](#)
- [NIH, Cancer Treatment](#)
- [ASCO Answers, Understanding Immunotherapy](#)
- [ASCO Answers, Understanding Chemotherapy](#)
- [NIH, Communication in Cancer Care (PDQ®)- Patient Version](#)

CSOC Patient Handout can be accessed at: [http://cancer-help.me/treatment](http://cancer-help.me/treatment)

### References:
- NIH, Communication in Cancer Care (PDQ®) - Health Professional Version