



Learn More – Module 4

If your doctor orders a test

- ◆ Ask what the test is called, what information it will provide, and whether there are alternatives.
- ◆ Ask about any risks associated with the test.
- ◆ Ask how much the test will cost in total, including charges from a lab, hospital, radiologist, pathologist, etc.
- ◆ Consider whether you've had that same test done recently, perhaps ordered by a different doctor. If so, have a copy of the results sent to your current doctor. If unsure, take the time to find out.
- ◆ Ask if the test is absolutely essential and how reliable it is in confirming your diagnosis. In some cases, tests may be ordered as a safeguard against malpractice suits, not because they are entirely medically necessary.
- ◆ Find out if you need the test right away or whether you can “wait and watch” to see if your symptoms improve or worsen.
- ◆ Ask about the most cost-effective facility to receive the test. Some facilities, for example, specialize in MRIs and charge much less for these tests than most doctor's clinics