



To assist in getting the right information while visiting the doctor, the **National Institute on Aging** suggests asking the following questions **About Tests Ordered:**

### About Medical Tests

Name of Test: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do I need this test? \_\_\_\_\_

What will it show about my health? \_\_\_\_\_

What will it cost? \_\_\_\_\_

Will my health insurance cover the costs?  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

What do I need to do to get ready for the test? You may not be able to eat before the medical test. \_\_\_\_\_

How is the test done? \_\_\_\_\_

What steps does the medical test involve? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any dangers or side effects? \_\_\_\_\_

How will I find out the results of my test? \_\_\_\_\_

How long will it take to get the results? \_\_\_\_\_

What will we know after the test? \_\_\_\_\_

When the results of the test are ready, make sure the doctor tells you what they are and explains what they mean. You may want to ask your doctor for a written copy of the test results. If the test is done by someone other than your regular doctor, like a specialist, ask to have the results sent to your primary doctor.

### If You Are Still Unclear

I want to make sure I understand. Could you explain a little more? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I didn't understand that word. What does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You may also find it helpful to repeat back to your doctor what he or she says using your own words and asking if you are correct.

### When More Information Would Be Helpful

Do you have any written information, DVDs, CDs, cassettes, or videotapes about my health condition and/or treatment?

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where should I look for more resources to help me understand? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Web sites or health organizations? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_