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**Patient Information - Making decisions about a new medicine**

You should have the opportunity to make decisions about any new medicines or the alternatives available. Your health care professional should:

* Discuss with you all of the different treatment options that are available, including details about their benefits and any possible harm or side-effects.
* Use the best available evidence when discussing these choices with you.
* Ask what is important to you about managing your condition and your medicines. They should ask about your values and preferences when making a decision about your treatment with you.
* Describe how any new medicine is likely to help you, how it works, how long this will take to happen, and any side-effects you may experience and who to contact to discuss these with.
* Explain what the next steps will be if a medicine doesn’t work, or stops working in the future.
* Tell you how the medicine should be used; explain if the dose needs to be altered and when to do this; explain how long the medicine should be used for and when it should be stopped (if it is only intended as a short-term treatment).

You may need to have more than one appointment to help you make a choice about a new medicine. You should be able to talk about your decision again and be able to change your mind, particularly if your health or situation changes.

You can find more information about agreeing treatment goals and shared decision making at: [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng5/ifp/chapter/About-this-information](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng5/ifp/chapter/About-this-information)

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