How You Know When It’s Time for a Second Opinion

You should get a second opinion any time you are unsure about a diagnosis and the treatment plan. You want to be sure you’re comfortable with your doctor’s recommendations.

Check out these lists to figure out if you need a second opinion. What category do you fall into? If you have any questions about your situation or what you read here, be sure to contact your Consultant.

You Need a Second Opinion If…

You are having a **major surgery**, such as anytime you need general anesthesia and/or will potentially need a hospital stay

You aren’t sure whether or not surgery is your only option

Your doctor has had **difficulty diagnosing** your condition

You feel like you can’t **communicate** effectively with your doctor

You are not seeing **improvements** in your condition after following your doctor’s advice

Your diagnosis is possibly **life-threatening**

You have **multiple chronic health conditions** and you fear that one of your conditions might interfere with your treatment for another

You feel **uncomfortable** with a doctor’s diagnosis, including any of the following circumstances:

  * You don’t fully trust your doctor, your doctor’s recommendations or the diagnosis process
  * You are not fully satisfied with the tests or the extent of testing your doctor has conducted
  * You instinctively feel that something more needs to be done.

Your doctor recommends a **drastic treatment** over less severe or more conservative treatment options

A **long-term treatment** is suggested, such as prescribing medications for a long period of time for a simple illness

A doctor recommends a treatment that is either **controversial** or riskier than other treatments

A doctor tells you that there are **no options** for treatment

You have a **rare medical condition** that most doctors rarely treat