



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