

Things to Ask So You Can Give Informed Consent

1. What is the problem?
2. What are the symptoms, or test results that are causing concern? Could this be normal?
3. What is the most likely cause? Are there any other possible causes?
4. Why does my baby, or why do I need this drug or procedure?
5. Will my baby and I be healthier for taking it, or having it done? Is this part of a study, a routine, merely for convenience, part of insurance guidelines - or a true emergency?
6. What are its known side effects or liabilities?
7. Will its benefits outweigh the side effects?
8. What tests or monitoring will be done? What do these show and what levels are we looking for? Will your treatment be different after the results are known?
9. Are there other options? What is the risk to me and my baby if I don't take it or have it done?
10. Weigh the risks vs the benefits. All drugs and procedures have risks and benefits.