

Patient information from BMJ

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Pneumonia: questions to ask your doctor

If you've been diagnosed with pneumonia, you may want to ask your doctor some questions to find out more about your illness.

Here are some suggestions:

- Are there treatments that can help me feel better?
- Do I need to take antibiotics?
- Do I need to stay in hospital?
- Can my family and friends catch pneumonia from me?
- What should I be eating and drinking?
- When can I go out or go back to school or work?
- How long will my coughing last?
- How long will it be before I feel like my usual self?
- Should I have a chest x-ray to see if the pneumonia has gone away? If yes, when should I have this x-ray?
- How will I know if I am getting worse? If I do get worse, how will I know when to come back to see you or seek emergency treatment?
- Is there any particular reason why I got pneumonia? Is my immune system working properly?
- What can I do to keep from getting pneumonia again?
- Should I get the pneumonia and flu vaccines?

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