

## Interview Questions for an Oncologist

- What is my diagnosis?
- What Stage is my cancer?
- What are my treatment options? What are the benefits of each option? What are the side effects?
- Should I undergo genetic testing?
- Will I need any additional testing?
- What is the test for?
- What will the results of the additional testing tell you?
- When will you get the results? How will I be informed?
- Do I need chemotherapy? Why?
- What is the goal of chemotherapy?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the chances it will work?
- How often is this chemotherapy performed for my type of cancer?
- How many times have you prescribed this treatment?
- What is your success rate?
- What are the possible complications, risks or side effects?
- Why do I need this treatment?
- Do I have cancer in my lymph nodes?
- What is the significance of cancer found in the lymph nodes?
- Are there any other alternatives to chemotherapy for my cancer?
- Will I need other cancer treatments, like surgery or radiation, before or after chemo?
- What will happen if I don't have chemo?
- What do I have to lose or gain if I don't have chemo?
- Am I healthy enough to have chemo?
- Are you certified by any Specialty Oncology Board?
- Will the chemo cure the cancer?
- How will I know the chemo is working?
- How many chemotherapy drugs will I get?
- How long will the chemo treatment take each time?
- How often?
- What happens if I get an infection?
- Will I need blood transfusions?
- Do I need a port?
- Do I need to do anything special to prepare for chemo?
- How will my chemo be given?
- How many treatments?
- Will I have to stay in the hospital? If so, how long?
- What happens if the chemo doesn't work?
- What can I expect after chemo? Will there be a lot of pain? Will I have any catheters coming out of my body?
- Can I sleep on my back, side, or stomach?
- How soon can I shower after the port is put in?
- Do I have any restrictions and if so, what are they and for how long?

- How will my body be affected by the chemo? Will it look or work differently? Will any of the changes be permanent?
- Will I be taking medicines after chemo? How do you spell it? How will I take it?
- What are the side effects?
- What are the chances my chemo will cause nausea and/or vomiting? If so, how long will it last?
- Which side effects should I report to you?
- Are there any medications I can take to prevent or treat side effects?
- Will this/these chemo drugs be okay to take with my other medicines?
- Can I drive to my treatments?
- Can I work during chemo? If not, how soon can I go back to work?
- Do I need to change my daily routine?
- How long before I can go back to my usual activities like the gym?
- What about sex?
- Do I have time to think about the other options or get a second opinion?
- How quickly must I decide about my treatment?
- Do I need to see my dentist before we start treatment?
- When should I begin?
- Will a delay in treatment reduce my chance of being cured?
- If I choose surveillance or the cancer comes back, how will I be treated?
- What is the percentage rate of developing a secondary cancer due to the chemotherapy treatment?
- What number should I call in an emergency?
- What is the name of the person I should communicate with in your office? Do they have a direct number?

These last two questions are usually addressed with the person responsible for billing:

- Will my insurance pay for this treatment?
- How much will my portion be?