

# Suspicion of Cancer?

## Here's What to Expect.



**The Early Steps:**  
First Referral for  
Suspicion of Cancer

**The Middle Steps:**  
Investigation of  
Symptoms



**The Final Steps:**  
Cancer Diagnosis and  
Treatment Planning

Developed by All.Can Canada to be customized by Canadian cancer patient groups and other stakeholders with specific information for different cancer types.



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# The Early Steps: First Referral for Suspicion of Cancer

## Cancer Suspicion Pathway

What is the diagnostic pathway for my suspected type of cancer?

Is there information or a website that I can review to help me understand what is happening?

## Mental Health Resources

Who should I contact about:

Mental health support

Peer support (patient groups)

Other needs, such as: sexual health/fertility, mindfulness, spirituality?

## Point of Contact

Who should I reach out to if I have questions about:

Referrals, Tests, or Appointments

Travel needs

Financial needs

Questions about loss of income/employment assistance?

## Expected Wait Times

Referrals:

Appointments:

Tests:

Results:

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# The Middle Steps:

## Investigation of Symptoms

### Tests

What is each test?

What is the purpose of each test?

What are the procedures?

How should I prepare?

Do I bring a caregiver?

### Test Results

How long until I can expect the results?

Who will provide me with results and explain these results?

Who will explain next steps?

Where can I access the results themselves?

### Point of Contact

Who should I reach out to if I have questions about:

Specific tests/the investigation process

Travel needs

Financial needs

Questions about loss of income/employment assistance?

### Mental Health Resources

Who should I contact about:

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# The Final Steps: Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Planning

## Logistical Implications

What are the logistical implications for each treatment option?

Do I need to travel?

Will I need to stay in the hospital?

Are my treatments covered through insurance? If not, what options do I have for coverage?

Do I need caregiver support?

## Size and Staging

What happens next to learn more about this cancer (size, stage)?

How long will this take?

## Point of Contact

Who should I reach out to if I have questions about:

My care plan and treatment plan

Travel needs

Financial needs

Questions about loss of income/employment assistance?

## Looking at the Treatment Options

What are the treatment options for this cancer?

Would treatment be curative or palliative?

Are clinical trials available to me? When would they be something to consider?

What are the benefits, risks, and uncertainties associated with these options? What are the short and long term side effects?

When would these treatment options start?

How will my medical team know if my treatment is working? How and when will this information be conveyed to me?

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