

How to be involved in your own care

Being involved in your own healthcare means taking part in every decision possible. This will give you greater control over your situation. It will also help to ensure your health choices are influenced by what matters most to you. Working together with your healthcare team will lead to better and safer healthcare for you.

There are many opportunities to be involved in conversations about your care. We encourage you to be involved as much as you would like during the following situations while you are in hospital:

- When speaking to your healthcare team about recommendations relating to your care
- During bedside nursing shift handover, when the nurses hand over your care plan for the day
- During ward rounds, when the healthcare team talk about your progress
- Use your bedside communication board to write questions for your team, ask your nurse share the daily care plan, and share your goals for your care so we understand what matters to you.

We will try to explain information about your care in a way you can understand. But sometimes we don't get it right. It is important that you ask questions if you are unsure about the information that has been provided. The following strategies may help:

- Prepare a list of questions for your treating team
- Ask us to explain the information, in a way you can understand
- Ask us for time to consider the information or talk it over with your family / carer(s)
- Ask us how the recommended care will help you
- Ask us for written information
- Ask us to make sure your bedside communication board is kept up-to-date

Setting goals for your healthcare

We will ask you about your goals of care and what matters to you

A goal of care is what you want to achieve or the things you want to be able to do. Some examples of goals of care are:

- Recover and get home
- Be able to take that trip to visit my daughter planned for next month
- Be able to look after myself at home



Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Austin Health celebrates, values and includes people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.



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- Be able to manage my pain
- Ensuring my family know how they can support me when I get home
- Learn how to manage my own care at home

Tips for setting goals

Here are some tips about setting goals, and examples of things you can do to make sure that everyone in the healthcare team knows what matters to you.

Tip	
1. Think about what matters most to you	Write a list or discuss what is important to you with those who support you. Consider things like your needs and preferences for care and the outcomes that matter most to you.
2. Make decisions about care and treatment choices with your healthcare team	When making decisions about your care, talk to your healthcare team about how different care options will help you to achieve your goals.
3. Understand who will help you reach your goals for care	Talk to your healthcare team about who you want to have involved in your care, and how they will work with you towards your goals.
4. Consider keeping a record of your goals	You may find it helpful to keep a record of your agreed goals of care. Your healthcare team will keep record of any goals you tell us about in your medical record.
5. Remember that your goals can change	You may need to have more than one conversation with your healthcare team about your goals. Over time or with change in circumstance, you may decide on new goals. This is OK – let us know if your goals have changed.

Want to learn more about being involved in your care?

[Checkback.org](https://checkback.org) is a free online learning module that will help you to build your skills and confidence when talking with your healthcare worker.

For further information

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