

What to Ask the Doctor After a Senior's Pneumonia Diagnosis

A family checklist for hospital visits, discharge planning, recovery support, and next care decisions

Use this guide during doctor visits or discharge conversations. It is not medical advice, and it does not replace the care plan from your loved one's healthcare team. Write down the answers so your family can compare options and plan the safest next step.

Important: If your loved one has severe breathing trouble, sudden confusion, blue lips or fingertips, chest pain, or a rapid decline, seek urgent medical help right away or follow the emergency instructions from their care team.

1. Ask About the Diagnosis

- What type of pneumonia does my loved one have, and what may have caused it?
- Is this mild, moderate, or severe right now?
- Are oxygen levels stable, or are they needing oxygen support?
- Are there signs of dehydration, confusion, weakness, or swallowing concerns?

2. Ask About Treatment

- What treatment is being used, and how will you know if it is working?
- What side effects or changes should our family watch for?
- When should symptoms begin to improve?
- What would make you change the treatment plan?

3. Ask About Recovery Outlook

- What factors affect recovery for someone of this age and health history?
- What signs suggest recovery is going well?
- What signs could mean the pneumonia is getting worse?
- How long might fatigue, weakness, or appetite changes last?

4. Ask Before Discharge

- Can my loved one safely return home alone?
- Will they need help with meals, bathing, dressing, mobility, or medication reminders?
- Are follow-up visits, lab tests, oxygen checks, or therapy needed?
- What written instructions should we follow at home?

5. Ask About Care Options

- Would home health, family support, rehab, or personal care be appropriate?
- What daily tasks may be unsafe during recovery?
- What should we do if confusion, weakness, or breathing problems return?
- Who should we call after hours if symptoms change?

6. Ask About Prevention

- Are vaccines recommended based on age and health history?
- How can we reduce the risk of another lung infection?
- Are there swallowing, mobility, nutrition, or hydration concerns to address?
- What lifestyle or care changes would support lung health?

Family Notes and Next Steps

Main concern from the doctor	
Medication or treatment instructions	
Warning signs to watch for	
Follow-up appointment or test	
Care support needed after discharge	

Need help planning care after pneumonia?

Franklin Court offers personal care in Quakertown, PA, with support for daily routines, meals, medication reminders, housekeeping, laundry, and transportation assistance for medical appointments.

[Explore Personal Care](#) | [Schedule a Tour](#) | [Contact Franklin Court](#)

Medical information sources reviewed: CDC pneumonia and pneumococcal resources; MedlinePlus pneumonia information. Always follow instructions from the treating healthcare team.