## Moving Beyond Stroke

# **QUESTIONS**FOR YOUR DOCTOR

One in four people globally will have a stroke in their lifetime<sup>1</sup>. If you, or someone you care for, has suffered a stroke, you are not alone. Your healthcare team is available to help you navigate life following a stroke. Some of the impacts of stroke are obvious immediately. Other impacts may take some time to notice or develop following stroke. They may even become worse over time.

Taking a few minutes before your next appointment to think about anything you, or the person you care for, would like to discuss with your doctor can help you to feel more prepared. To help you get started these are a few questions that you might like to ask.



#### Signs, symptoms, risk and impact of post-stroke spasticity

- I have heard that I should look out for signs and symptoms of spasticity after a stroke, what is spasticity? Am I at risk of developing it?
- How common is it to develop spasticity?
- How do I know if I am developing spasticity?
- How severe is my spasticity?
- Is spasticity progressive, will it continue to worsen?



### Spasticity diagnosis, management, and therapeutic support

- Is there anything that can be done to improve, fix or manage my symptoms? e.g., physiotherapy, occupational therapy?
- Can spasticity be reversed, or just go away?
- I've heard spasticity can be managed, who is the best person to be referred to? Is there a certain specialist I should speak to?



#### Other questions you may have

or note any changes you may have noticed in your movement that you would like to discuss with your doctor.

Before your next appointment write down any other questions you might think of

**Reference: 1.** The GBD 2016 Lifetime Risk of Stroke Collaborators. Global, regional and country-specific life-time risks of stroke. *N Engl J Med* 2018; 379:2429-2437.

