IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED and you have not started treatment yet, here are a few questions you might want to ask your doctor:

- What are the results of the bone marrow biopsy and what is the stage of the disease? (Most patients are diagnosed in a chronic phase)

- What treatment will I start? (Most patients will be started on Gleevec, also referred to as imatinib mesylate, at around 400mg per day. If your doctor is prescribing a different dose, do you understand why?)

- What does this drug do and how will its effectiveness be monitored?

- What if I miss a dose?

- What are some of the side effects that I might expect with this drug and what can I do to minimize them?

- Are there any side effects for which I should seek immediate medical attention?

- How do I buy this drug and will I need help with my insurance provider?

- Can I still have an occasional glass of wine or other alcohol while I am on this drug?

- Are there any other drugs that would interact with this drug?

- Is there a clinical trial for a new drug for newly diagnosed patients? If so, what would be the pros and cons of participating in a clinical trial?

- Do I need to be concerned about pregnancy, breast feeding or sterility?

- Will I be able to go to work? Is there anything specific I shouldn’t do while I am taking this drug?

AFTER YOUR FIRST VISIT, MAKE SURE YOU MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR NEXT VISIT BEFORE LEAVING THE HOSPITAL.