



Finding the Right Doctor Comparison

Which hospitals does the doctor use?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

What are the office hours (when is the doctor available and when can I speak to office staff)?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

Does the doctor or someone else in the office speak the language that I am most comfortable speaking?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

**How many other doctors "cover" for the doctor when he or she is not available?
Who are they?**

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

How long does it usually take to get a routine appointment?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

How long might I need to wait in the office before seeing the doctor?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

What happens if I need to cancel an appointment? Will I have to pay for it anyway?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

Does the office send reminders about prevention tests—for example, Pap smears?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

What do I do if I need urgent care or have an emergency?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

Does the doctor (or a nurse or physician assistant) give advice over the phone for common medical problems?

Doctor A: _____

Doctor B: _____

Doctor C: _____

You may also want to talk briefly with the doctor by phone or in person. Ask if you are able to do this and if there is a charge.

The next step is to schedule a visit with your top choice. During that first visit you will learn a lot about just how easy it is to talk with the doctor. You will also find out how well the doctor might meet your medical needs. Ask yourself: Did the doctor...

Did the doctor...	Yes or No	
1. Give me a chance to ask questions?	Yes	No
2. Really listen to my questions?	Yes	No
3. Answer in terms I understood?	Yes	No
4. Show respect for me?	Yes	No
5. Ask me questions?	Yes	No
6. Make me feel comfortable?	Yes	No
7. Address the health problem(s) I came with?	Yes	No
8. Ask me my preferences about different kinds of treatments?	Yes	No
9. Spend enough time with me?	Yes	No

Trust your own reactions when deciding whether this doctor is the right one for you. But you also may want to give the relationship some time to develop. It takes more than one visit for you and your doctor to get to know each other.