



Questions for Your New Health Care Provider

With so many health care professionals to choose from, it's not always easy to know which one is going to best meet your health and wellness needs. There are some important things to consider as you decide and the questions below will help you think through these important issues so that you can make an informed decision. We recommend that you print this sheet out and use the questions below as you consider all the options for your health and wellness needs.

- Does the health care professional focus on treating health problems when they occur, or on helping you stay well and preventing health problems? What is your preference?
- Does the health care professional typically treat patients with your type of health concern? Specifically, what is their experience and expertise?
- When treating health issues, is this health care professional geared toward surgical, pharmaceutical, or natural/wellness approaches? Which approaches fit your needs best?
- What kind of education, training and certification does the professional have? Are their services licensed or regulated by the state?
- How does he/she work with or cooperate with other types of health care professionals if you need more than one care provider?
- Can you request a consultation before making an appointment?
- Does the health care professional have appointments available during the next few weeks? Is there a time that will fit within your schedule? Will it be easy to schedule appointments if you need to see the health care professional on a regular basis? What is the rescheduling policy?
- Who will you see at each appointment and will you be seen by the same person at each one? Is it important to you to see the same person from visit to visit so that the person caring for you understands your health situation, history and needs?
- How much time is typically allotted for each appointment? Do you feel relaxed and comfortable asking questions of this health care professional, or do you feel rushed and concerned that your questions are too unimportant to ask about?
- Does the practice accept your health insurance?
- If not, is there a flexible payment plan?
- If you don't have insurance, will seeing this health care professional help lower your overall costs?
- What do you do if you have a question about your treatment? Is there a phone number or email address you can use to directly contact the health care provider? Do they respond to request for information or to your call promptly?

Getting answers to these questions will help you ensure that you are finding the right health care professional to meet your needs. For more information, please visit www.patientsrightscoalition.org.