**Selecting a Doctor**

The relationship between you and your doctor is one of the most important relationships that you will ever have. It’s important for you to interview doctors and select one that is right for you. Learn about your disability and the medications you take so you can communicate your needs better with your potential doctor. Knowing this information will help get you on the right path to building a good relationship with your doctor.

An important first step is to decide what you are looking for in a doctor. Ask family and friends who their doctors are to increase the number of doctors you interview and give you more options. Once you have interviewed doctors and reviewed your comments you will be able to make a more informed decision about who you would like to have as your doctor.

Using this checklist will help you with this activity. There are blank spaces available for you to write in your own personal questions too.

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| --- |
| Date: Doctor’s Name: |
| Doctor’s Address: |
|  |
| Doctor’s Telephone No: Email Address: |
|  |
| **No.** | **Question:** | **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. | Does the doctor take your insurance?  |  |  |
| 2. | Does the doctor offer payment plans?  |  |  |
| 3. | Is the doctor’s office easy for you to get to and move around in? |  |  |
| 4. | Can you get on and use the equipment in the doctor’s office? (Chair, scale, x-ray machines, exam tables, etc.)  |  |  |
| 5. | Do you care if your doctor is a man or a woman? |  |  |
| 6. | Does the doctor speak the same language as you? |  |  |
| 7. | Does your insurance cover any special procedures or operations that you may need to have? |  |  |

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| **No.** | **Question:**  | **Yes** | **No** |
| 8. | Is the doctor associated with a hospital or medical center that takes your insurance? |  |  |
| 9. | Do you prefer a doctor who has an individual practice or one who is part of a group, so you can see one of the doctor’s partners if your doctor is not free? |  |  |
| 10. | Is it important that your doctor has evening office hours? Morning hours? Weekend hours?  |  |  |
| 11. | Has the doctor been in practice for a long time and have a good reputation? |  |  |
| 12. | Does the doctor have experience working with people with disabilities? |  |  |
| 13. | Is the doctor knowledgeable about your disability or medical condition?  |  |  |
| 14. | Does the doctor/staff take the time to explain things to you in a clear manner so that you understand?  |  |  |
| 15. | Does the doctor take walk-in appointments?  |  |  |
| 16. | Is the doctor available if you have an emergency situation? |  |  |
| 17. |  |  |  |
| 18. |  |  |  |
| **Healthcare Resources:**  |
| * CDC’s Health Care for People with Disabilities -<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/DisabilitiesDay/>
* Healthfinder.gov - <http://www.healthfinder.gov/findservices/default.aspx>
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