



Questions to Ask Your Doctor

When choosing a new doctor, answers to the following questions can help you decide. You can download more copies of this form at www.nia.nih.gov/health/twyd-worksheets.

What Do You Need to Know About a Doctor?	
BASICS	
Question	Answer
Will language be an obstacle to communication? Is there someone in the office who speaks my language?	
Do I prefer a group practice or an individual doctor?	
Does it matter which hospital the doctor admits patients to?	
Does it matter whether the doctor supports clinical research?	
LOGISTICS	
Question	Answer
Is the location of the doctor's office important?	
Is there parking? What does it cost?	
Is the office on a bus or subway line?	
Does the building have an elevator? What about ramps for a wheelchair or walker?	

OFFICE POLICIES

Question	Answer
What days/hours does the doctor see patients?	
Are there times set aside for the doctor to take phone calls?	
Does the doctor accept emailed questions? Is there a charge for this service?	
Does the doctor ever make house calls?	
How far in advance do I have to make appointments?	
What's the process for urgent care?	
How do I reach the doctor in an emergency?	
Who takes care of patients after hours or when the doctor is away?	
How do I access my medical records to keep track of diagnoses, test results, treatment plans, and medications?	

