

Make your doctor a partner in your health care.

You want to trust your doctor, and you'll get better care when you are an engaged patient. Build a good relationship with your doctor by sharing information, asking questions, and listening carefully.

To help you choose a new doctor, here are some questions to determine if they're a good fit for you. You can find answers to these questions on the doctor's website or by speaking with the doctor and their office staff directly.

- How long have you been in practice?
- Do you accept my health insurance or Medicare?
- What is your medical specialty? Do you have more than one?

Learn more at [CertificationMatters.org/about](https://www.certificationmatters.org/about).

- Are you currently board certified in the specialty I am looking for?
- If you are board certified, which board certified you?

Learn more at [CertificationMatters.org/boards](https://www.certificationmatters.org/boards).

- How do you keep up with advances in medicine?
- Which hospitals do you use? Are they accredited?
- What are your office hours?
- Who covers for you when you are unavailable?
- How long does it usually take to get a routine appointment?
- How long is the typical office wait?
- What are your policies about payment if I need to cancel an appointment?
- Does the office send reminders about preventative tests, such as mammograms and colonoscopies?
- Do you or someone in your office speak the language that I am most comfortable using?
- Do you (or a nurse or physician assistant) give advice over the phone for common medical problems?
- Do you perform routine X-rays and laboratory services in your office?
- Do you survey your patients? How do you use the survey results?

In addition to these general questions, you may wish to ask your doctor about the specialty care you need. For example, if you are considering a surgical procedure, you may want to ask how frequently the doctor performs this procedure, what the potential risks are, and what the recovery involves.

Learn more about ABMS medical specialties at [CertificationMatters.org/boards](https://www.certificationmatters.org/boards).



Is your doctor board certified?
[CertificationMatters.org](https://www.certificationmatters.org)