

Choosing A Family Physician

WHY?

A family physician is very important. They can guide and support your health care. A family physician is interested in your specific condition, as well as all your general health needs. A family physician who lives in your own community will know about programs and services that can support your plans.



STEPS TO TAKE

- ✓ Ask your family and friends for suggestions.
- ✓ Think about the type of doctor you would like; male or female, understands your language or culture, location of the office, types of patients they see.
- ✓ Shop around - make sure your doctor meets your needs.
- ✓ Make an appointment for a new patient - have your medical card ready to give the receptionist with your phone number and address.
- ✓ On your first visit (remember your medical card and any information about yourself you might need; phone #, address, specialist information, medical history).
- ✓ Ask questions!!
 - Is the physician experienced with your condition?
 - What days of the week do they work?
 - What hospital do they admit to in case of an emergency?
- ✓ Then ask yourself:
 - Am I comfortable with this person?
 - Are they listening to me?
 - Do I understand the answers to my questions?
 - Am I treated with respect?
 - Are they interested in me and what is happening in my life?
 - Is this a person I can learn to trust?
 - Is this a person I can contact if I feel threatened or in danger from myself or others?
 - Is this a person that welcomes my ideas and suggestions?
 - Is information kept between myself and the physician?



My Choice

Dr.: _____ Office Hours: _____
 Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____
 Address: _____ Receptionist's Name: _____