

# Choose a Doctor



**So you need a new doctor! You want a good doctor and one you can talk to. Use this worksheet to find a doctor who meets your needs.**

## What kind of primary care doctor do you want?

1. Internist/family doctor/pediatrician/ob-gyn \_\_\_\_\_
2. Male/female/either male or female \_\_\_\_\_
3. A doctor who speaks (language) \_\_\_\_\_
4. A doctor whose office is less than \_\_\_\_\_ miles from my home or office.

## Make a list of possible doctors:

- Ask your health plan for a list of primary care doctors who are taking new patients. Explain the kind of doctor you want. And look on the plan's website.
- Ask friends and co-workers to recommend doctors.
- Visit [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org) (click on DoctorFinder) or [www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org) (click on Find a Doctor).

### Then call the doctor's office and ask:

	Doctor's Name	Phone Number
1. Is the doctor taking new patients?	_____	_____
2. What is the doctor's medical training?	_____	_____
3. Does the doctor have experience with your conditions or concerns?	_____	_____
4. What kinds of specialists are in the medical group? How many are there?	_____	_____
5. Which hospitals will the doctor refer me to?	_____	_____
6. How long does it usually take to get an appointment?	_____	_____
7. Can I get evening or weekend appointments?	_____	_____
8. Other:	_____	_____

## Choose the doctor who seems to best meet your needs.

Call the doctor's office or your health plan and ask to sign up with the doctor as your primary care doctor. Then make a new-patient appointment. Remember, if you do not like this doctor, you can call the plan and ask for another doctor.