

Ask for a physician

Physicians (MDs and DOs) are the **only** health care professionals who complete four years of medical school, three-to-seven years of supervised postgraduate training (known as “residency”), and a comprehensive licensing exam series before they are eligible for an unlimited medical license. However, did you know that not every state requires physicians to be involved in patient care?

To be an informed patient, here are some questions to help you get to know your health care professional and find out whether a physician (MD or DO) will be involved in your care:

**Please tell me, “Are you a physician?”
Specifically, an MD or a DO?**

Are you working with a physician?

Is a physician available if I have any questions during or after my visit?

Will a physician be involved or overseeing my care and treatment plan? For example, will a physician be reviewing my chart, lab results, x-rays and other tests?

Remember—you have the power to ask for a physician.



**Not sure what
these letters mean?**

Ask for a physician.

Scan this code to see why medical
education matters.

