



GETTING ALL THE INFORMATION

The following is a list of questions you might want to ask your care provider

NEW ILLNESS

1. Can you make a diagnosis at this time?
2. Would you recommend a second opinion or specialist for this illness?
3. Should anything be done immediately?
4. What should we be doing over the next few days/weeks?
5. Are there any long term needs/concerns?
6. When will my child feel better?
7. How long does this illness usually last?
8. Are there any symptoms I should be aware of to monitor this illness?
9. What are the indications that my child is getting better?
10. What are the indications of any complications or worsening?
11. If I do notice any signs of complications, how can I contact you after hours?
12. In an emergency, who should I call?
13. When can my child go back to school?
14. Are there any special precautions which the school should be aware of?
15. Will my child's growth and development be affected?

AT MY CHECKUP

1. Is my child's growth within the normal range?
2. Is my child's speech/language, physical abilities, vision, and learning developing normally?
3. When should I be concerned that my child is not developing correctly?
4. Do you think some developmental screening should be done at this time? Do you administer any of these tests yourself as part of the regular check-up? (If the answer is no, you may want to have the doctor write a report indicating a concern over development in a particular area which you can send to the school staff working with your child to request that they test your child or arrange for appropriate testing. If your child is not of school age, you may request these results be sent to the school system to request early intervention screening.)
5. What are the next developmental stages we should be watching for?
6. What can we do to help our child's development?
7. Should we be consulting with the early intervention program and or therapists for our child?
8. Will you collaborate with the school by sending copies of your evaluations or writing a report specifying my child's delays which I can use in talking to the local school system?

TESTS

1. What is the test for?
2. How long will the test take?
3. How is the test performed?
4. How will the information from this test help you understand/treat my child's illness?
5. Is this test necessary?
6. When will you know the results of this test?



7. When will you tell me the results of this test?
8. If the test is abnormal what will be done?
9. Can my child eat before this test?
10. Are there any precautions I should take either before, after, or during this test?

REFERRAL TO A SPECIALIST

1. Specifically, why is this referral being made?
2. Are we being referred for a second opinion or are we seeing the specialist for a diagnosis?
3. Are there records I should take with me or will they be sent in advance?
4. Is this specialist comfortable working with children like mine? (who have complex medical needs)
5. Will the specialist be fully informed about my child's disability or would it be useful for me to give him a call?
6. Who will get the reports of this evaluation?
7. Who will be interpreting them?
8. Who will be discussing these reports with me?
9. What are this specialist's rates? Can arrangements be made to help cover these expenses if needed?

SURGERY

1. What exactly will this surgery do or allow my child to do?
2. Will this surgery improve my child's condition or make it more manageable?
3. What are the consequences of not doing it?
4. What are the potential side effects of this surgery?
5. Would there be any advantage in waiting to see if the situation improves?
6. How long will my child be in the hospital?
7. How long will it take my child to fully recover from this surgery?
8. Will we need any special equipment or help at home when he/she is released?
9. What are the possible complications or side effects?
10. Should we get a second opinion?
11. Do you think any additional surgery will be necessary?

HOSPITALIZATION

1. Can you estimate the length of my child's stay in the hospital?
2. Who will be the attending doctor?
3. If other doctors are consulted will I be informed prior to the consult?
4. Who will keep me informed about my child's progress?
5. How often will I be informed about my child's progress?
6. How can I have input into my child's treatment plan when I want?

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY

1. How can I contact you after hours?
2. What do I do if I run out of supplies?
3. What if the wrong supplies are delivered and I have no back up supplies?
4. What do I do if my doctor changes my supplies?



5. How do I reorder supplies?
6. What if I need more supplies than you deliver?
7. What if the equipment breaks, how long will it take you to replace it?
8. Do you have references? Who else has used your services?

HOME CARE COMPANY

1. What percentage of the time are you unable to fill shifts?
2. What if I don't get along with the nurse you send, what are my options?
3. Is it ok to have house rules for care providers? For example: What rooms they are allowed in, where to park, telephone usage, which bathroom to use, where to put their coat and purse, etc.
4. What do I do if a nurse doesn't come when he/she is scheduled?