

# 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.**

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education matters.

