

Checklist: Find a Doctor/Cancer Center

This checklist was designed to serve as a guide in narrowing down your options and making a decision, as you search for the right doctor or cancer center that will help you manage your treatment. You can use this checklist as you gather information online, over the phone and schedule appointments. Not all doctors will have the same treatment recommendations so if you have the option, schedule second (and even third opinions) so you can compare your options and decide what's best for you.

Dr. _____



Logistics

- ☐ How long will it take to schedule an appointment? How much time will you have with the doctor?
- ☐ What days/time does the doctor see patients? Do they offer evening, weekend or virtual appointments?
- ☐ What is the process for urgent matters? Who takes care of patients if the doctor is away or after hours?
- ☐ Does the doctor accept questions through email or the patient portal? Is there a fee for this? Is it covered by insurance?
- ☐ What is the appointment cancellation policy?
- ☐ Are you able to have tests, such as lab work or imaging done in the doctor's office?
- ☐ Is the location of the doctor's office or cancer center convenient and/or are you willing to travel?
- ☐ Is the doctor, hospital affiliation and/or cancer center where you may receive treatment covered by insurance?



Experience/Accreditation

- ☐ Is the doctor board-certified? Is the cancer center accredited?
- ☐ If you will be treated at a cancer center, do they have different support services to address your needs?
- ☐ Does the doctor or cancer center have experience in treating your specific cancer type?
- ☐ Do they provide clinical trials and/or are they involved in research?
- ☐ How will your care be coordinated across different specialists and what type of multidisciplinary approach is in place?



Connection

- ☐ Is sex, race, religion or language of the doctor important to you? Do they have expertise with your specific needs (e.g. LGBTQIA+)?
- ☐ Does the doctor and office staff make you feel comfortable during the appointment?
- ☐ Does the doctor explain things in a way that's easy for you to understand?
- ☐ Does the doctor take the time to listen to you and understand your history and concerns?
- ☐ Does the doctor spend enough time with you and give you a chance to ask your questions?
- ☐ Are you comfortable with the doctor's communication style and/or personality?
- ☐ Does the doctor seem knowledgeable about your medical history and treatment recommendations?