



What New Patients Should Bring on Their First Physician Visit

First visits are difficult for both patient and doctor.

There are several things you can do to make that visit more productive:

- Have your medical records sent to the new physician in advance.
 - You will probably have to start requesting your records several weeks ahead of time to be sure they arrive before you do.
 - Make follow-up phone calls to be sure the records were sent.
- Take all your medicines with you.
 - Open your medicine cabinet and put **everything** you take in a bag and bring it with you. This means both prescription drugs and non-prescription medications.
- If you received a questionnaire from the new doctor, complete it before your appointment and bring it with you.
- If you have advanced directives (living will, durable power of attorney for health care), bring a copy for your doctor.
- If you use any type of assistive device (walker, cane, etc.) at home, bring it with you.