

**Questions to ask when choosing a:  
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (PCP)**

**For Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

Developed through a collaboration of the Brain Injury Associations of Florida, Montana, and New Jersey.

When choosing a primary care physician to fit the needs of an individual who has sustained a traumatic brain injury, knowing what to ask can help you make the best possible selection. The checklist below is a good place to start. Check each box that can be answered with a "yes." The primary care physician who receives the most checkmarks is likely to be the best choice for your loved one. This can be a very important, long-term relationship. Take your time in choosing. Learn the location of the office and office hours to be sure they are convenient for you. Talk to the support staff. Are they courteous, organized and helpful? Will the doctor take time to listen to you? Do you feel comfortable with him/her? Ask friends and relatives for referrals.

	Dr. Name/Notes	Dr. Name/Notes	Dr. Name/Notes
<b>CRITERIA FOR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN</b>			
Are you a board certified in your specialty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you accept my insurance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have extensive experience treating patients with brain injury?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have specific training in prescribing and monitoring medications for patients with brain injury?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you refer patients with brain injury to specialists when needed (i.e. Neurologist, Neuropsychologist, Psychiatrist, Physical, Cognitive, Speech and/or Behavioral Therapist)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the doctor call for a lot of tests?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you provide after-hours or emergency care management?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the office staff or doctor return phone calls promptly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the office stress preventative care and healthy lifestyle options?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you provide references from previous patients?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTALS:</b>			
<b>ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>			
What hospital are you affiliated with?			
Who would see the patient if the doctor is unavailable?			
How frequently are physician assistants (PA's) used? Are the PA's in the office trained to work with patients with brain injury?			
How long does it take to get a non-emergency appointment?			
How long is the wait before seeing a doctor? In the exam room?			
Does the doctor give you undivided attention, or is he/she rushed?			
<b>Notes:</b>			