



## Questions for Your Doctor

**Primary care physician:** If you have diabetes or a family history of the disease, it's important to know your primary care physician is capable of leading your diabetes management team. Whether you are seeking advice about diabetes for the first time or you are searching for a doctor who can plan your care, there are several questions to ask a new physician.

### ***Do you have special training in diabetes care?***

It is vital that your primary care physician be knowledgeable in the latest treatment methods.

### ***What are your office hours? Who covers nights and weekends?***

Since diabetes is a difficult disease to manage, it is important that you can reach a medical professional at all hours of the day.

### ***Are you associated with other diabetes professionals, so I will benefit from a health care team?***

Because diabetes can attack many parts of the body, an eye doctor, a dentist and a podiatrist are all essential parts of your diabetes care team. A dietician can help you choose appropriate foods and a nurse educator can teach you and your family about the disease.

### ***What are your fees?***

Whether you have insurance or not, it is important that your primary care physician understand your financial situation.

**Podiatrist:** A podiatrist is a doctor trained to care for the feet and lower legs. Because the disease can cause poor blood flow and nerve damage in the lower legs, foot problems are more common in people with diabetes. Small cuts, calluses or sores that don't heal can quickly turn into serious, even limb threatening, issues. Any noticeable changes in the feet should be examined by a podiatrist. Inspecting the feet at home on a daily basis is a great way to catch a problem before it becomes serious. Ask these questions when choosing a podiatrist to be part of your diabetes health care team.

### ***Are you familiar with the foot problems diabetes can cause?***

Visiting a podiatrist that is up to date on the latest diabetes care methods will allow you to have the best care possible.

### ***How many of your patients have diabetes?***

A podiatrist that deals with diabetes on a regular basis will be in tune to your special needs.

### ***Will you work with my primary care physician?***

A team approach is the best way for you to get complete care. Your eye doctor, dentist, dietician and diabetes educator are also important parts of your health care team.

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