Questions to Ask at Your Child’s Appointment

Preparing for your child’s visit:
You know your child better than anyone else, so trust yourself and share what you have observed with your provider. Do not hesitate to ask questions.

If this is your first appointment with the office, call ahead to make sure your child's records have been received, or bring the records to the appointment. If your child has had tests done since the last visit, please call ahead to make sure the office has received the results.

Prepare a list of your top questions and concerns so you can make sure they are addressed. If you have many things to discuss highlight the important items first as there may not be time to answer all your questions. You may be asked to return for another appointment if extra time is needed to answer your questions and concerns.

Take notes since you may not remember everything that was discussed when you get home. Keep a notebook with all of your child’s information and your questions and answers from previous visits. If possible, bring someone along with you to the appointment who can help listen and provide support. It is ok to ask for something to be explained if you do not understand what was said.

Questions about the Practice:
How do I make an appointment?
How long do appointments usually take?
How do I get in touch with someone if I have questions? Who do I call if I have an emergency when the office is closed?
How do you handle prescription refills?
Who do I contact if I have questions about my bill?

What questions should I ask at my child’s visit?

General Questions:
What is the name of my child’s medical condition?
What causes this condition?
What tests can be done to confirm my child’s diagnosis?

How is this condition treated?

What should I be concerned about as a parent?

What precautions should I take to keep my child safe?

What do I need to do to take care of my child at home?

**Treatment Questions:**
What are the goals for treatment of this condition?
Are there any side effects to this treatment and any important things I should look for?
Are there any other treatment options?
Are there any medicines or foods that I should not give my child with the medication?
What will happen if I miss a dose of medication?

**Parenting Questions:**
How do I explain this condition to my child?
Should my child’s activities be limited? How can I help my child have a normal life?
What should I tell my family and friends about this condition and how it is being treated?
What should I tell my child’s teacher and school?
Are there any resources for more information or support groups I can join?

**Questions for Adolescents:**
Are there any special concerns as my child enters puberty?
Are there any concerns for birth control or having children?
Can my child drive? Is there any special process we need to follow?
Will my child be able to work?
At what age will my child transition to an adult Neurologist?

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