



Talking to Your Doctor

Listening and Asking Questions is Important!

What your doctor should do:

- Explain things to you so **you** can understand.
- Ask why **you** think you are sick.
- Let **you** help make decisions.

What you should do:

- Listen carefully.
- Ask questions! **This is very important.**
- Tell your doctor if you don't understand.
- Repeat back to your doctor what he says to you. Ask if you repeated correctly.

Ask questions about how to take medicines.

- Always make sure you understand how to take medicines the right way.
- Ask the doctor or nurse to **show you how** to take the medicines.
- Ask her to write instructions for you and draw pictures too if it helps.

Doctors or nurses may need to ask you questions that are hard to answer.

- These important questions help others understand you and your family.
- Your doctor will not share your information with anyone.
- You may be asked about using the toilet, drinking alcohol, your feelings, or sex.
- Be truthful with your doctor.

Help your doctor understand your way of living.

- Where you go to church
- Who takes care of you when you are sick
- What medicines you take
- Things you won't eat

In the United States you have rights when it comes to your healthcare.

- Tell your doctor what things are private matters.
- Tell your doctor if you want family or friends to help make important decisions.

