Medical Board of California

Be informed. Be healthy.

Quality healthcare is important to all of us. Take these steps to ensure that you and your family get the best care possible:

1) Always Use an Appropriately Licensed Healthcare Professional

- Call the Medical Board of California's Consumer Information Line at (916) 263-2382 to see if your physician or other healthcare professional is licensed.
- For additional information concerning licensed physicians, physician assistants and podiatrists, visit the Medical Board of California's Web site at www.mbc.ca.gov. Information regarding other licensed healthcare professionals is available at the Department of Consumer Affairs' Web site at www.dca.ca.gov or call (800) 952-5210.

2) Do Your Homework on Your Physicians

- Medical clinics employ many physicians. Before your appointment, call the clinic to see if you can get the names of all the physicians who may see you. Call the Medical Board at (916) 263-2382 to check each physician's license status.

3) Don't Take Prescription Drugs From Unlicensed Individuals

- Only accept prescription drugs and medications from a licensed healthcare professional who is authorized to prescribe them.
- Tell your healthcare professional about any medications or over the counter remedies you are already taking. They need to know if a medication they prescribe may interact poorly with other medications you are taking.

4) Use the Medical Board as a Healthcare Resource

- If you have questions or concerns about your medical care or other questions about a physician or another healthcare professional, call the Medical Board of California at (916) 263-2382.

The Medical Board is a California state government agency, which licenses and regulates medical doctors.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
1876
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

You can also access the Medical Board of California on the Internet at www.mbc.ca.gov

Selecting a Physician

As a patient, you should feel comfortable with your healthcare professional. If you need to find a new physician, here are a few tips:

- ☑ If you have insurance, check with your insurer or your employer's benefits office to see a list of available physicians. Many insurance plans limit your choice of doctors, requiring you to select a primary care physician (PCP) from their list.

- ☑ If you are not limited to a list of doctors, most physicians are listed in the yellow pages of the phone book. For primary care, you might select a family physician, Internist or Obstetrician/Gynecologist. At times, you may require a specialist (e.g. Dermatologist, Ophthalmologist, etc.). This will be determined between you and your primary care physician.

- ☑ Talk with friends or co-workers about physicians they like or look in the white pages under the Medical Society of your county. Once you have the name of prospective physicians, call their offices and ask if they are accepting new patients and whether or not they accept your insurance plan.

- ☑ Call the Medical Board at (916) 263-2382 or check our Web site at www.mbc.ca.gov to verify that your prospective physician has a current California license. You can also use the Web site to see if there have been any disciplinary actions against a physician, or if any formal accusations by the Board are pending.

- ☑ Come prepared for your initial visit by making a list of things you want to discuss with your doctor. Make a list of questions for him or her that you want answered.

You should always feel comfortable with your licensed healthcare provider.

Take an active role in your healthcare.

Phone numbers for the hearing impaired:
(916) 263-2687 - Information about physicians; (916) 263-0935 - Consumer complaints

UNION LABEL TO BE PLACED HERE

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