

Questions You May Want to Ask Your Child's Medical Professional

Name of Medical Professional: _____

Phone/Contact Information: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Next Appointment Date: _____

Medical professionals are trained to diagnose and treat medical conditions in people. Examples include pediatricians, family physicians, primary care doctors, and nurse practitioners.

Your child's medical professional oversees your child's overall growth, health, and development. You might see your child's medical professional in an office, clinic, or hospital.

This person will coordinate all areas of your child's medical care. In addition to receiving routine care, a child with hearing loss may need to see specialists who will look at the child's specific health needs. These specialists may look at eyes, language or speech needs, genetics, or other areas. Your child's medical professional will help decide which specialists your child should see and when to see them. In this way, your child will receive coordinated care by all of his or her medical professionals.

Your medical professional may send your child to some or all of the following specialists:

- **Ophthalmologist:** A doctor who specializes in eyes.
- **Otolaryngologist:** A doctor who specializes in the ear, nose, and throat. This professional is often called an ear, nose and throat doctor or ENT.
- **Geneticist:** A professional who is trained to know about genes and the medical conditions (including hearing loss) that might be related to genetics.
- **Audiologist:** A professional trained to test hearing.
- **Speech-language pathologist:** A professional trained to know how children learn language and to teach children how to use speech and language.
- **Early intervention provider:** A person who is trained to provide services that support families and children, ages birth to 3 years, who have or are at risk for developmental delays.

If you have questions or concerns about the care your child needs, you may wish to schedule a longer appointment with your child's medical professional. The questions that follow may help you better understand your child's condition and the type of care he or she may receive.

Questions about my/our child's medical services:

1. Do you know why my child has hearing loss? Could my child's hearing loss be related to any other medical conditions? Could it be genetic?

2. Are there specialists who are knowledgeable about childhood hearing loss that my child should see?

3. How do I get the referrals for the specialists my child might need to see (e.g., speech, audiology, ENT, genetic, ophthalmology)? To get the referrals, do I need an appointment with you first or can I request them by calling your office?

4. How will the specialists we see share their findings with you? How long does that process usually take? How am I (as parent/guardian) involved in the communication between the specialists, and will I get copies of the reports?

5. Have you already received any reports about my child's hearing loss (e.g., from audiology, ENT)?

6. Will my child need more tests because of the hearing loss? For example, brain scans (CT, MRI) or blood or urine tests? What will these tests tell you about my child's hearing loss?

7. If I have problems with the referrals, or if my insurance company has questions, what should I do?
Can your office help me?

8. Are there any medications that may have harmful effects on my child's hearing?

9. Will ear infections or fluid in the ears affect my child's hearing loss? Should infections or fluid in the ears be treated differently because of my child's hearing loss?

10. Will you need to see my child more often because of the hearing loss? How often?

11. Other than my child's hearing loss, do you have other concerns about my child's development? Is he or she meeting the developmental milestones as he or she should?

12. Can you tell me about early intervention services that are available in my area?

13. Do you know of any community resources or support groups for my family?

14. Is there anything more I should know or consider about my child's hearing loss or general health?
