

DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE

LEARN HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR DOCTOR

FOR THE PATIENTS

GET TO KNOW YOUR DOCTOR

Finding information on medical professionals is a key part of patient safety. What do you know about your doctor? Maybe they have a nice smile in their website photo or a friendly reception staff when you call to schedule an appointment. That's a start, but you deserve to know your doctor's full story, from performance safety record to disciplinary history.

The majority of doctors are well-trained and highly skilled. The issue is that there's currently no publicly accessible, comprehensive database to confirm this. Because of special interest lobbying and a lack of consumer-focused legislation, patients don't have the same access to information about providers that hospitals do. That needs to change.

Taking time to learn about your doctor's professional history - to help you make an informed decision - is an important first step for patient safety.

IF YOU'RE FACING A MEDICAL PROCEDURE IN THE NEAR FUTURE

and have no idea who to trust or where to start, you're certainly not alone. Navigating the healthcare system is overwhelming for everyone. Below are some ways for you to get as much information as possible about your doctor before your visit.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO RESEARCH YOUR DOCTOR



Time to investigate.

Go to [DocInfo.org](https://www.docinfo.org) and search for your doctor's name to find out if they've been disciplined by a state medical board.



Red flag alert.

Has your doctor moved from state to state or from hospital to hospital often? Even with a disciplinary record, doctors can continue to practice by moving to different states. Ask for an explanation if anything in your doctor's professional history seems concerning.



Dig deeper.

State medical boards occasionally do not discipline doctors who injure their patients or behave inappropriately. Without strict enforcement of medical practice laws, negligent doctors may continue to work in other states. A recent Public Citizen [report](#) explores how well these boards are doing to protect the public.



One more for good measure.

Search the [ProPublica Vital Signs Database](#) to learn about your doctor's performance history.



We need patient safety and patient equity.

What happens if doctors treat patients [differently](#) because of their gender, race or English language skills? [Research](#) shows that some patients' medical treatment and outcomes vary based on their identity. We must acknowledge that health equity is also a patient safety issue.



Advocate for change.

The medical and political systems can do more to get you access to information you need to learn about your doctor, and to highlight inequalities in medical outcomes. Groups like Public Citizen and Patient Safety Movement Foundation can help. Follow [@propublica](#) and [@plan4zero](#) on social media and visit [citizen.org](https://www.citizen.org) to learn about real-time actions you can take to demand change.

LEARN MORE BY VISITING

- www.patientsafety.citizen.org
- www.littleton-roadph.com/forthepatients
- www.patientsafetymovement.org

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