

The Smart Patient's Hospital Vetting Checklist

Choosing the right hospital and provider is crucial. Use this checklist to organize your research and guide your consultations.

PART 1: Initial Research (The "Data" Phase)

Use this section to compare your top 2-3 hospital options.

Hospital Safety & Reputation (Use CMS.gov & LeapfrogGroup.org)

- **Hospital Name:** _____
 - CMS Overall Star Rating: _____
 - Leapfrog Safety Grade (A-F): _____
 - Patient Survey (HCAHPS) Score (CMS): _____
 - Infection Rate (lower is better): _____
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 - Leapfrog Safety Grade (A-F): _____
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Provider Vetting (Use Healthgrades & ABMS.org)

- **Doctor's Name:** _____
 - Is this provider **Board-Certified** in their specialty? (Yes / No)
 - Are they affiliated with my chosen (and researched) hospital? (Yes / No)
 - Any malpractice claims or disciplinary actions listed? (Yes / No)
 - General trend from **patient feedback** (e.g., "Good listener," "Always rushed," "Billing issues"): _____
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PART 2: The Consultation (The "Interview" Phase)

Take this with you to your appointment. Do not be afraid to ask these questions directly.

Questions for the Doctor

[] **About the Procedure:** * What are my alternatives (including non-surgical)? * What are the most common complications? * What is *your personal* complication rate for this procedure?

[] **About Your Experience (The "Volume" Question):** * How many of these *exact* procedures did you perform last year? * Why do you prefer this hospital for this specific surgery?

[] **About the Team:** * Will you be performing the entire procedure yourself? * Will residents, fellows, or PAs be involved? (If so, how?) * Who is my main point of contact *after* the procedure if I have a question?

[] **About Logistics & Recovery:** * What does the typical recovery look like (time off work, limitations)? * How does your office handle after-hours emergencies? * (Confirm with office staff): Are *both* you and this hospital 100% in my insurance network?

Your "Gut Feeling" Assessment (After the Consultation)

- Did the doctor listen to me without interrupting? (Yes / No)
- Did they explain things in a way I understood (no jargon)? (Yes / No)
- Did I feel rushed? (Yes / No)
- Do I feel confident in this provider's plan? (Yes / No)