

Choosing a Hospital

How can you choose the best quality hospital for the care you need? It is important to consider quality, because research shows that some hospitals simply do a better job than others. For example, hospitals that do a greater number of the same surgeries have better outcomes for their patients.

Here is a checklist of things to consider as you are choosing the best hospital for you and your family:

- Does the hospital meet national quality standards? For example, is it accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)?
- Is this hospital rated highly by state and consumer groups?
- Does my doctor have privileges (permission to admit patients) at the hospital?
- Does my health plan cover care at the hospital?
- Does this hospital have experience with my condition? Is this a "general" hospital or a "specialty" hospital (e.g. focus on heart or children's services)?
- Has this hospital had success with my condition?
- Am I confident that they check and work to improve their own quality of care?

Other Resources:

- Healthfinder® provides a gateway to reliable consumer health information from the Federal Government and other organizations. Visit: <http://www.healthfinder.gov>.
- "The Patient Care Partnership" is a brochure from the American Hospital Association that will inform you about what you should expect during your hospital stay with regard to your rights and responsibilities. Download this free brochure by visiting <http://www.hospitalconnect.com/aha/ptcommunication/partnership/index.html>.

Names and phone/e-mail information for individuals/groups you might want to contact for recommendations or with questions:

Name:	Phone/e-mail:
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

NOTES:

1-866-VISTACARE (847-8222)
www.VistaCare.com

