



Is Your Doctor Independent?

12 Questions

To determine if your physician or clinic is independent, consider asking some of the following questions. You may choose to contact the clinic in advance or ask at the first appointment.

1. **Is this clinic independent?** If the answer is yes, ask if it is a “fee-for-service” (FFS) practice (with a list of prices for each specific or bundled service) or a Direct Primary Care (DPC) practice (with a monthly, quarterly, or annual fee for a list of services provided in the clinic contract with the patient).
2. **Does this clinic take Medicare, Medicaid, or Obamacare payment?**
3. **Is my doctor required to follow computer-directed treatment protocols** or prohibited from prescribing medications and ordering treatments not listed on the computer’s menu of treatments?
4. **Is compliance with treatment protocols** tracked by third parties through the computer or by clinic collection and reporting of quality/ value metrics to the government, a health plan or health system?
5. **Is my doctor free to order ivermectin** and hydroxychloroquine and use “off-label” medications, experimental or out-of-the-box treatment options, and other “right to try” drugs?
6. **Is my doctor required to use “step therapy”** (order the cheapest drug, and then the next cheapest drug and so on until the health plan or government allows the doctor to order the preferred drug)?
7. **Does the clinic receive funding from anyone other than the patient?** Note: You can evaluate the clinic’s independence based on funding sources. Although they may receive sample drugs, pharma funds, and research funding, that does not necessarily mean they are not independent.
8. **Can any third parties (by contract, coercion, payment) direct my doctor to limit or ration care?**
9. **Are outside controls over care exerted** by any hospital, health plan, payment plan, health care system, government agency, or other third-party entity (including other physicians in the practice)?
10. **Does the clinic receive any government funding**, including for annual Medicare wellness visits, vaccine administration, or collecting “Social Determinants of Health Data”?
11. **Can my doctor be penalized in any way (e.g. payment, quality scores) for using his best judgement in treating me instead of following computer-derived treatment protocols?**
12. **Do I have full control over my medical records, including the right to prohibit outside access without my informed written consent?**

These questions help clarify potential conflicts of interest affecting your doctor’s ability to be unbiased in your care. To find a truly independent doctor or clinic, visit [The Wedge of Health Freedom](http://TheWedgeofHealthFreedom.com) (JoinTheWedge.com).

