

Getting the Most Out of Health Care Visits

YOUR HEALTH CARE TEAM

You are the most important member of your health care team. You do the day-to-day things to manage diabetes like choosing healthy foods, being physically active, and taking your medication. You can check your own blood glucose to see if you're reaching your blood glucose targets.

The other members of your health care team—your doctor, diabetes educator, nurse, dietitian, and others—are your advisors and coaches. They can tell you about your treatment options and keep track of your physical exams and lab tests. Together, you and your team can make sure you're getting the very best care for your diabetes.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOUR VISIT

- Write your blood glucose check results in your log book every day.
- Keep a list of your questions.
- Make a list of the medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. Include over-the-counter medicines. List when, why, how much you take, and if you need any refills.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Your blood glucose meter, log book, and questions.
- Your lists of medications, vitamins, and other remedies.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE IN THE EXAM ROOM

- Show your doctor your questions.
- Have your log book and meter ready. Discuss blood glucose patterns.
- Get out your lists of medicines and other remedies to show the doctor.
- Take off your shoes and socks to remind your doctor to check your feet.
- Bring up any physical or emotional issues you are having such as trouble sleeping or feeling anxious.

DIABETES EDUCATION

If you would like to learn more about your diabetes care, such as how to eat better or get more active, ask where to go to get help. There are a number of ways to learn more about diabetes, such as classes, support groups, websites, books, and videos.

The ADA has a list of high-quality diabetes education programs. These programs meet special standards to help you learn to take care of your diabetes. To find a program near you, call ADA at 1-800-DIABETES or go to www.diabetes.org/erp.