



When looking for a geriatric doctor for a family member, it's important to find someone who not only has the necessary medical expertise but also a compassionate approach to older adults' unique needs. Here are some key questions a family should ask:

**1. What is your experience with geriatric care?**

- How long have you been practicing geriatrics?
- Do you specialize in treating older adults, or is geriatrics one aspect of your practice?

**2. What services do you offer for senior patients?**

- Do you provide comprehensive geriatric assessments?
- How do you manage complex medical conditions common in older adults (e.g., dementia, mobility issues, chronic illnesses)?

**3. How do you approach coordinating care?**

- Will you work closely with other specialists (e.g., cardiologists, neurologists) to manage my family member's care?
- Do you provide help in navigating the healthcare system, like ensuring referrals and follow-ups?

**4. What is your approach to managing medications in elderly patients?**

- How do you handle polypharmacy (multiple medications) and ensure that medications are appropriate for older adults?
- Do you assess and adjust medications regularly to minimize side effects and interactions?

**5. What is your approach to cognitive health?**

- How do you assess and manage cognitive decline, such as early signs of Alzheimer's or dementia?
- Do you have experience in creating care plans for individuals with dementia or other cognitive conditions?

**6. How accessible are you for consultations and emergencies?**

- What is your policy for after-hours or emergency care?
- Can I reach you easily if there's a sudden issue or concern?

## **7. How do you involve family in decision-making and care plans?**

- Are you open to family involvement in discussions about treatment and care plans?
- Do you regularly update family members on the patient's condition and progress?

## **8. How do you ensure the comfort and quality of life for older patients?**

- How do you balance treatment goals with maintaining comfort and quality of life?
- What steps do you take to ensure dignity and respect in care?

## **9. Do you offer or recommend home care services or rehabilitation?**

- If needed, do you have recommendations for home health services or rehabilitation programs for mobility and independence?

## **10. What is your philosophy on end-of-life care?**

- How do you approach discussions on advanced directives, palliative care, or hospice care?
- Are you comfortable guiding families through these difficult decisions if they arise?

## **11. Are you affiliated with hospitals or medical centers that specialize in geriatrics?**

- In case of hospitalization, which hospitals or care facilities do you work with that have specialized care for seniors?

## **12. Do you accept insurance, and how do you handle billing?**

- Do you accept my family member's insurance? Are there any out-of-pocket costs to consider?

## **13. What support services do you offer or recommend for caregivers?**

- Do you provide resources for family caregivers, such as support groups, training, or respite care options?

## **14. Can you provide references or patient testimonials?**

- Are there any families I can speak to about your care or experiences with your practice?

Choosing a geriatric doctor is about finding someone who listens, understands the complexities of aging, and offers compassionate, holistic care. These questions should help guide that process.