

Tips on Medical Visits For Your Dementia Patient

1. Keep a record of your patient's physical complaints between visits (e.g., chest pains, shortness of breath, etc.)
2. Bring all their medicines -- including prescriptions and over-the-counter preparations to every doctor visit.
3. Insist on providing history and symptoms directly to the doctor.

REMEMBER: Many doctors do not realize your patient has trouble with memory and communication.

4. Insist that the doctor explain medical conditions and medications to you as well as the patient.
5. Ask the doctor about whether any new medicines may increase confusion.
6. Attend every medical appointment with your patient or send a family member to be present throughout the entire examination.
7. Doctors frequently don't talk to each other. Inquire about communication among each physician treating your patient.
8. Tell the doctor when specific instructions like exercise, diet, smoking cessation, etc., are not realistic for your patient –
Example: bed rest for a wandering patient or expecting that a patient is unable to communicate or will ask for chest pain pills (nitroglycerin).