



## CHOOSING A DOCTOR – RESOURCES TO HELP YOU AT YOUR LIBRARY

1. Education and Training – Directory of Physicians in the United States.  
Published by the American Medical Association, this 4 volume directory provides information on the education and training for most licensed physicians and doctors of osteopathy in the United States. Over 650,000 physicians are included. R610.25/D598. Also available online at [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org).
2. Board Certification – Board certification in a specialty is not required by law but is highly desirable credential. Official ABMS Directory of Board Certified Medical Specialists. Published by the American Board of Medical Specialists this directory lists those physicians certified by ABMS and who have completed a training program and evaluation process assessing their ability in the specialty. R610.922/O32. Also available online at [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org).
3. Evaluation Guides – Provide physician recommendations by a particular publisher.
  - a. “Top Doctors in Chicago” – Annual listing in the January issue of Chicago Magazine. Ask for it at the reference desk.
  - b. Top Doctors: Chicago Metro Area. R610.695/T673ch.
  - c. America’s Top Doctors. R610.695/A512
  - d. “Top-Rated Primary Care Physicians” – Article in Chicago Consumers’ Checkbook Winter/Spring, 2003 issue. Ask for this at the reference desk.
  - e. Paid websites [www.bestdoctors.com](http://www.bestdoctors.com) and [www.physicianbackground.com](http://www.physicianbackground.com) provide evaluations of individual physicians.
4. Disciplinary Actions – Check with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 9-300, Chicago, Ill. 60601 Tel. 312/814-4500. Online listings are at [www.idfpr.com](http://www.idfpr.com).

5. Hospital Information –

- a. Annual edition of “America’s Best Hospitals” listed in US News and World Report. Top medical centers in 17 specialties are rated. Available online at [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com).
- b. American Hospital Association Guide to the Health Care Field. R362.11/A512. Published by the American Hospital Association this comprehensive directory lists all accredited hospitals in the U.S.
- c. Chicago Consumers’ Checkbook – Check issues at the reference desk for articles on how to get good care at local hospitals and plan for medical emergencies including a list of best medical emergency rooms.

Circulating books on how to choose and establish a productive relationship with a physician can be found in the 610.696 section.

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6960 Oakton  
Niles, Illinois 60714  
(847) 663-1234

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