

Plan your comparison

Use this worksheet for hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, or nursing homes.

Type in the fields or print a blank copy and write by hand. Download and save the PDF to your device to keep your work. Use extra copies if you need more room; typed space is limited so notes remain visible when printed.

Care or procedure I am considering / what matters to me

Facilities and exact locations I want to compare

Details to confirm before choosing care

This guide does not verify coverage, network participation, services, or appointments. Entering an insurer name does not look up coverage.

Ask your health plan: Are the facility and each clinician in network for my specific plan? Is the care covered? Is prior authorization required?

Ask the facility: Does this location provide the care I need? Confirm scheduling, referrals, travel, and accessibility arrangements.

What I confirmed, who provided the information, and the date

Compare relevant findings from more than one source. Missing data does not mean zero problems. A high rating cannot guarantee an individual outcome.

Record public-report findings

Use a separate copy of this page for each facility. Check the original reporting source.

Facility name and exact location

Reporting source / measure / rating or result

Date checked and reporting period or rating edition

What this tells me about the care I need / limitations or missing information

Other sources: findings, dates, and any conflicting results

Examples of sources: Medicare Care Compare; Leapfrog; relevant accreditation directories; state inspection reports; specialty reports; other established reporting sites. Availability differs by care setting. Record each source separately.

Prepare questions and record answers

Use a separate copy for each facility or conversation. Add questions prompted by your findings.

Facility / person contacted / role / date

Question 1 and the answer I received

Question 2 and the answer I received

Question 3 and the answer I received

Consider asking about experience with your care, relevant outcomes, missing or conflicting results, current improvement efforts, and how patients or families can raise concerns.

Bring your findings together

Discuss your options with your care team. This worksheet does not recommend a facility.

What I learned / differences that matter to me

Questions still to ask / details still to confirm

My next steps / additional notes

Consider clinical needs, quality and safety findings, insurance coverage, location, availability, and your preferences. Keep this worksheet for future conversations. In an emergency, seek immediate medical help.